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Falklands: democracy versus the jackboot

Central Europeans have grown used over the past 10 years to disputes over borders and sovereign rights being held on the strict understanding that the use of force is ruled out.

This self-restraint and self-discipline resulting from memories of two world wars and made indispensable by the nuclear stalemate does not seem to have caught on yet in South America.

A fascist dictatorship that specialises at home in arranging the "disappearance" of thousands of political opponents and their families has invaded the British Falkland Islands and imposed its undemocratic rule on the islands' British inhabitants.

The West and the overwhelming majority of the Third World did not want the Russians to get away scot-free with the invasion of Afghanistan.

General Galtieri, the Argentinian leader, must not be allowed to get away with a similar offence either.

Britain is exercising its right to self-defence against an unprovoked act of aggression. It deserves the solidarity of its Western allies.

More is at stake than the right to self-determination of 1,800 sheep farmers on a rocky group of islands in the South Atlantic.

Others could follow Argentina's example in Central America, Africa, Asia and everywhere where emerging nations are keen to make territorial adjustments to their advantage.

As so often in history, Britain for the time being stands alone and has to rely on its own military resources. The United Nations has long ceased to be capable of collective military action against an aggressor as it was in Korea or the Congo.

The other great powers, which might be expected to set an example, have chosen to be selfish, clinging to the straitjackets of their ideologies and interests.

The United States voted with Britain in the UN Security Council, but the power of President Reagan, representing the strongest country in the western hemisphere, had failed in a 53-minute telephone call to bring the Argentine dictator to reason.

The Soviet Union and China, which as communist states might be expected to side with the Third World against the former colonial powers, abstained.

This is sure to have upset the Argentinians, who will have expected more from Moscow at least, having helped out the Soviet Union with grain shipments after the United States imposed its embargo.

But neither the Russians nor the Chinese dared to use their veto in support of the aggressor.

British jingoism, running through all political parties, is no less disconcerting. Germans can hardly fail to look on such nationalistic sentiments as a return to the late Victorian era.

But Britain has not lost a world war and has not, as the Germans have, come to terms with the idea of being only a second-rate power.

In terms of the superpowers' overkill capacity Britain's armed might is puny, but the symbolic power of a country that still heads an intercontinental Commonwealth and is one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council cannot be assessed in terms of megatons.

It was all the more upsetting to have *been caught napping by a disreputable* dictatorship. "The British lion," wrote *The Guardian* of London, "has been caught with his pants down."

Tweaking the lion's tail can be dangerous. When feeble great powers are humiliated they are capable of reacting in many ways.

Fortunately, the Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Falkland Islands is not in a part of the world where superpower interests clash.

But when a member of one of the two

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Bonn President Karl Carstens being welcomed to Brazil at Brasilia airport by President Figueiredo (right). At extreme left is Frau Veronika Carstens. (Photo: dpa)

Diplomacy on Genscher's Brazil agenda

State visits often manage to keep well clear of the action. Not so President Carstens and Foreign Minister Genscher on their visit to Brazil.

Almost as soon as Genscher arrived, *Lord Carrington rang from London.* They know each other well, and not only from EEC meetings in Brussels.

One can but guess what they discussed; details were certainly not given. But Brazil has agreed to look after Argentiha's diplomatic interests in Britain.

Brazil ought also to be keenly interested in avoiding armed conflict and a naval clash in the South Atlantic.

Herr Genscher naturally refused to make any direct comment on the conflict. But he felt there could be no doubt that the UN Security Council resolution calling on Argentina to withdraw its forces was binding.

Bonn is naturally prepared to help in any way it can.

Intensive talks with President Carstens' Brazilian hosts were aimed at boosting trade ties, with the emphasis on Sao Paulo as an industrial location.

Investment by German industry was, he said, a sign of confidence in Brazil's future. Both sides hoped economic ties would not atrophy in the current recession.

"The world looks different here than in Bonn," President Carstens said in Brasilia. He was referring in particular to yardsticks of world affairs viewed from Germany and the border between East and West.

But the visit provided an opportunity of considering problems of special relevance when viewed from a vantage point beneath the Southern Cross.

Sigrid Grimm
(Handelsblatt, 8 April 1982)

Invasion raises moral points

Argentina has occupied the Falklands. A British naval task force has set out for the South Atlantic to regain control by resorting to bloodshed if necessary.

The Falklands are a pinpoint on the map. What do they matter to Europe in general and Germany in particular with their 1,800 inhabitants, mainly sheep farmers?

First, the Argentine invasion is a flagrant violation of international law obligations to settle international disputes peacefully and to renounce the use of force, as the Bonn government spokesman put it.

The aggressor is a state that feels itself to be a member of the Western world, although it is currently ruled by a military dictatorship that has scant regard for human rights.

What if its example were to be followed by others in the West? Besides, the victim is a country, and Nato member, whose armed forces are lined up in defence *of the Federal Republic of Germany* and West Berlin.

The Falklands crisis also has a moral aspect, as it were. Turn a blind eye to the Falklands and you forfeit any right to point an accusing finger at, say, Afghanistan or Poland in the East bloc.

The situation calls for German solidarity with our British allies no matter how reluctant we might be in view of the possible consequences of sanctions against the aggressor, the loss of markets and of jobs.

Yet many Western European governments have been surprisingly swift and determined in responding to the illegal move by the Argentine junta.

Germany, France, Holland and neutral Austria have informed the aggressor that it need no longer count on mili*tary support of any kind for the time* being.

Warships are being built in German shipyards for the Argentine regime. They will be kept in cold storage for the time being.

The United States, which is counting on Argentine support in the struggle for Central America, would prefer not to give military support to either side.

Does that not leave a wide gap between legality and morality? Maybe the positive side of Mr Reagan's policy, a policy that is bound at first glance to appear dubious, will yet come to light.

The future of the Falklands has in any case yet to be decided. Both sides are still lining up forces and closing ranks. Bloodshed on any major scale has yet to begin.

Before the brassbats decide the course of events the diplomats have a chance. How high, one wonders, are the trumps Mr Reagan holds on the threshold between peace and war? And how will the Soviet Union react?

Claus-Dietrich Möhrke
(Rheinische Post, 8 April 1982)



■ THE EEC

Commission goes for the easy alternative

The EEC Commission cannot afford to take the line of least resistance.

But it has. It has been unable to agree on the most important Community issues such as the agricultural policy.

So it has now gone on to a secondary issue — development of the European Monetary System.

Changes here make everything a whole lot easier for the Commission because it has the support of everybody.

Everybody, that is apart from West Germany and the Netherlands.

The other EMS members, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, France, Denmark and Ireland, all have vested interest in developing the system.

The French are the ringleaders. Bonn has resisted Paris' wish for controls on the movement of capital, or, to put it bluntly: a ban on the export of capital, so Paris would now like to harness the EMS to its cart.

The objective of socialist France is obvious: President Mitterrand wants to introduce a major programme aimed at eliminating unemployment.

The trouble is that, crank though he may, the economic motor refuses to start. The bugbear, as President Mitterrand and his government see it, is high interest rates.

But interest rates can only come down if France succeeds in uncoupling itself from America's monetary policy.

The Italians back the French on this point.

What the Italians propose has made Bonn prick up its ears.

If everything had gone according to plan with the EMS, the two countries would not have needed such a spectacular new campaign in the first place.

The EMS would have entered its second phase in March 1981; and this second phase would automatically have fulfilled most of the French and Italian wishes.

The development of the EMS in its first three years did not coincide with the wishes of the system's fathers.

In 1978, when the dollar was weak, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the French president of the time, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, wanted to create a zone of internal and external stability.

Firm exchange rates were earmarked as the instrument with which to expand trade and, ultimately, achieve a common EEC economic policy via a common monetary policy.

Three years later, in March 1982, it was obvious that this was an illusion.

The zone of internal stability has also failed to materialise, as borne out by the different inflation rates within the Community. And as to external stability, this has never been more than a fleeting phenomenon.

Though the fixed exchange rates are always — at least temporarily — ensured through support purchases by the central banks, parity adjustments have become necessary time and again as a safety valve.

So far, there have been five such exchange rate adjustments, and the next one is just around the corner: Paris will have to put its cards on the table and devalue.

All these shortcomings have made the transition to the second phase impossible.

To achieve the transition, the individual parliaments would have to provide the necessary legal instruments with which to enable the central banks to transfer their gold and foreign exchange reserves to the envisaged European Fund.

Support purchases as a means of ensuring fixed exchange rates within the EMS (which now fall in the province of the individual central banks) would then be made by the European Fund. It is here that the Bundesbank baulks. It refuses to have its independence curtailed.

As a result, our neighbours content themselves with minor "technical improvement proposals" in a bid to achieve two objectives: their currencies are no longer to be subject to heavy fluctuations against the dollar, and they would like to have additional internationally transferable funds at their disposal.

Both these wishes will founder on the joint resistance by the Bundesbank and the Bonn government.

The first of them could only be implemented at the expense of Germany's foreign exchange reserves — the Rhinegold, as some call it — and the second at the expense of Germany's scope of action in matters of monetary policy.

The European Commission speaks only of an extension of the functions of the European Currency Unit (Ecu).

But the Ecu happens to be a basket currency and its value is based on the average of the currencies in the basket.

In a way, therefore, the Ecu resembles the artificial International Monetary Fund money, its Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

The Ecu is thus no "hard" currency because it is not freely convertible. As a result, it is only natural for the Bundesbank to oppose any request that it accept unlimited quantities of Ecus.

Germany's central bank needs dollars — if for no other reason beause it has considerable dollar commitments.

Understandably, the EEC Commission wants to make the Europeans increasingly concious of the Ecu. In fact, what it would like most would be for all Europeans to pay for their purchases in Ecus.

Such basket currencies are no more than accounting units; at best they are suitable as credit currencies because of their exchange rate stability.

To enable the Ecu to be used as a normal means of payment, it would have to be freely convertible into dollars, deutschemarks and Swiss francs.

Rudolf Rohde

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 April 1982)

Continued from page 1

major military pacts, especially when it is the third-largest naval power, embarks on a naval expedition in the Third World, further repercussions must be feared.

They could affect Nato or North-South relations, already a tricky subject. They could affect transatlantic trade and world affairs in general.

Compromises are conceivable that would dishonour neither the British nor the Argentinians. The dispute over a left-over from a distant colonial era is not worth the blood of a single soldier, be he British or Argentinian.

Karl-Heinz Janssen

(Die Zeit, 9 April 1982)

Opportunities are missed

The EEC has missed two opport
ties to solve major problems.

Eight million farmers are still wa
for new prices to be worked out foll
ing the failure of the agricultural co
cil to make a decision.

And a special foreign ministers' m
ing to settle the dispute over Brit
contribution was postponed indefi
ly. The problems are connected a
paralyse EEC operations.

The key figure in the question of B
tain's payments, Lord Carrington, w
unable to attend the meeting becaus
the Falklands dispute.

He has since resigned as British F
reign Minister on this issue.

However, in any case, few thou
that there was any chance of succes

Though the agriculture minis
made every effort to do the spadew
for the price package so that they wo
not be left holding the bag, their p
spects were poor.

President Mitterrand was so tough i
his rejection at the EEC Summit o
Margaret Thatcher's demands that s
did not even repeat them.

The French refuse any cutback i
Britain's contribution until Lond
agrees to a substantial increase in fa
prices — and Britain will not give in
farm prices until the matter of its cont
bution has been settled.

Nobody knows how the Commu
is to extricate itself from this blind a
ley. Only two years ago, Bonn settl
the British contribution problem wit
cheque for a couple of billion. But th
possibility is out of the question no
Bonn doesn't have the money.

Angelika Bade

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 5 April 19

'Failure of bid' to lower trade barriers

Attempts to remove legal and technical barriers to trade within the EEC have failed, says the Commissioner responsible for European trade, Franz Andriessen.

He said in the 11th annual report that protectionism is an ever-growing threat.

Somehow a balance must be found between trade policy and competition policy.

The main points dealt with are state subsidies, cartels and public sector corporations.

The public sectors of all EEC member nations are subject to considerable pressure to protect their domestic industries through subsidies, says the report.

It should be the Community's policy to strive for a realistic balance that would ensure that subsidies do not endanger the unity of the market.

But it would be wrong to prevent subsidies intended as a provisional measure aimed at economic and social rehabilitation.

The Commission lists the subsidies it favours. But the report also says that the Commission's open-minded attitude is limited by the need to prevent distortions of market forces within the EEC.

This applies particularly to such crisis branches of industry as steel, textiles and shipbuilding, where it is necessary to strictly control subsidies.

As to the Bonn government's European Court lawsuit for violation of the EEC Treaty in connection with the assessment of the Belgian Textile Plan (Claes Plan), Andriessen said he was confident that the Commission would win the case.

Bonn contends, among other things, that the Commission approved the plan (involving DM410m in the first of five years) in the preliminary review although a decision about compatibility with Community provisions should have been made in the main review phase.

The report delves deeply into the problems of nationalisation and its effects.

The Commission is neutral on in accordance with the EEC Treaty.

But newly nationalised companies must be subject to the Treaty provisions that apply to all public sector corporations.

Even though the latest nationalisation measures in France do not distort the market forces, it is necessary to ensure that distortions do not occur as a result of subsequent government provisions for these companies or as a result of the nationalised companies' market attitudes.

The report confirms its positive attitude towards various types of cooperation among small and medium-sized companies.

The Commission's aim is to enable them to weather the competition from major companies. To ensure this, the Commission is prepared to accept far-reaching that will favour them, competition restrictions as for instance with re-
gard to licensing and marketing. Th
Commission also approves of subsi
for these companies.

The Commission deals at consi
ble length with its intention to acce
te and clarify the application of com
tition regulations.

This applies in particular to inve
gations, the informing of the part
concerned about the contents of t
dossiers involved and the hearing of t
companies concerned.

Companies' rights to legal defe
are to be strengthened.

Andriessen confirmed in this conn
tion that the Commission will conti
its action against IBM "even if it tak
years."

According to the report, more th
one-third of the Commission's legal d
cisions on competition matters conc
multinational corporations based in Eu
rope or outside the EEC.

(Handelsblatt, 5 April 198

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Helmut Schmidt has enjoyed a reputation for being at his best when the going is tough ever since 1962, when he supervised rescue operations during flooding in Hamburg.

Calling him a crisis manager, nowadays a hackneyed cliche and used at times disdainfully, was an inadequate attempt to define the Chancellor's undoubted ability in this respect.

It is true to say that more than once in his eight years at the helm in Bonn Herr Schmidt has shown himself to be a fighter and a man ready to take decisions.

He has proved to have staying power, especially at times of crisis, and he looks like needing it badly this time.

Kurt Becker, chief government spokesman in Bonn, says the Cabinet reshuffle expected in May is strictly part of the normal workings of a democratic system.

This may be so, but it also forms part of the Chancellor's grand design to prevent, in this key mid-term year, the collapse of his government and the final breakdown of the coalition of Social and Free Democrats that has held power in Bonn since 1969.

The future will begin once the SPD party conference is over, an associate of the Chancellor is reported to have said. This clearly indicates the existence at the Chancellor's Office of plans for a political offensive.

The bid to salvage the SPD-FDP coalition partnership will indeed depend to a crucial extent on the course and outcome of the Social Democrats' Munich conference.

It will take clear conference majorities in support of government policy on key issues of both foreign and home affairs to persuade Foreign Minister *Genscher*, the FDP leader, to make a fresh start in joint harness with Chancellor Schmidt.

The Cabinet reshuffle, important though it might to be bring fresh blood into the government and eliminate weak points, does little more than symbolise this spectacular bid to bring about a turning point.

After the Social Democrats' rout at the polls in Lower Saxony Herr Schmidt is well aware that only powerful leadership will succeed in reversing the trend against the SPD.

Only strong leadership can stem the tide against the coalition and arguably reverse the trend in the long term.

By the time the next round of mid-term state assembly elections are held in

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Test for Schmidt reputation as the man for a crisis

Hesse he and the SPD-FDP alliance must have restored the impression that they are in control of the situation and governing the country.

They must convey the impression of having a joint approach by which to handle the economic crisis and of having sufficient dtermination to implement it.

So there is a more important overall issue than whose heads are due to roll in the reshuffle of SPD Cabinet Ministers and who the Chancellor may be transferring to another department or freshly recruiting.

What matters most is whether the Social and Free Democrats reach agreement on a programme of policy objectives for the remainder of the current legislative period.

There has been an interesting exchange of comments between the two general secretaries, Peter Glotz of the SPD and Günter Verheugen of the FDP.

It would seem to lay the groundwork for a fresh lease of life based on views held in common.

Herr Glotz hinted that the Social Democrats might be prepared to discuss further cuts in the social services. Herr Verheugen made it clear that the Free Democrats had no intention of economising beyond the point where social injustice began.

It is hard to say whether these views represent majority opinion in either party, but there can be no mistaking a bid for rapprochement that seems sure to have been approved by both SPD and FDP leaders.

Herr Schmidt seems determined to combine the Cabinet reshuffle, which Herr Genscher has said must not include the four FDP Ministers, with fresh agreement on Cabinet policy.

If he were to succeed again in persuading the FDP to close coalition ranks (which presupposes that the SPD conference goes his way), the Free Democrats would, he feels, be most unlikely to risk collapsing the government over the 1983 budget, on which discussions are to begin this summer.

Further linchpins of his survival strategy are the Western economic summit in Paris and the Nato summit in Bonn.

Both, the Chancellor hopes, will reestablish his reputation as an international economist and a peacemaker, enabling him with some likelihood of success to throw all his weight into this year's crucial electoral battle, the state assembly election campaign in Hesse.

The strategy is by no means bound to success; there is an unusually high number of uncertain factors.

The party conference may, for instance, endorse the Chancellor's line on major issues, but whether the left wing will really accept majority opinion is another matter.

Herr Genscher may be prepared to agree on a fresh policy package, but whether clashes over next year's budget will then be ruled out is likewise another matter.

The coalition and the Social Democrats may be stabilised in time for the Hesse poll, but whether the SPD and FDP poll enough votes to be able to continue in joint harness in Wiesbaden is yet another.

The Greens, as Germany's environmentalists are known, might effectively bring Hesse Opposition leader Alfred Dregger and the Christian Democrats to power.

In the final analysis this might mean the end of the Bonn coalition after all.

Joachim Worthmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 April 1982)

Cabinet to be reshuffled

The Cabinet reshuffle Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt admits he is planning is clearly aimed not just at individual changes but at improving the Cabinet's overall image and strengthening its hand.

Mid-term is about the right time to take stock and make changes in the team sheet, especially as he made next to no changes to his winning team after the October 1980 general election.

It is reasonable to assume he was well aware of a number of shortcomings in the Cabinet even then, but he can now no longer afford them, given the stat of his Social Democratic Party and the state of the coalition.

There is growing friction in Social Democratic ranks and between the SPD and the Free Democrats, the junior partners in Herr Schmidt's Bonn coalition.

The result has been doubts whether the Chancellor's SPD-FDP coalition would last the distance and hopes among the Opposition Christian Democrats that the government might collapse before the end of its term.

The Christian Democrats have clamoured for fresh elections. The next general election is not due until autumn 1984. Herr Schmidt's "fresh start" is doubtless intended to reply to these demands.

The Chancellor would like to demonstrate at the SPD party conference in Munich that he is determined and able to carry on governing.

Only by succeeding in credibly putting this idea across can he hope to retain the support of delegates who see government policies as being steadily less Social Democratic.

The names that are going the rounds are unlikely to end up in a combination that will be entirely in keeping with what the Chancellor might like to see.

Speculation on who is in and who is out will have made the reshuffle more urgent than may have been to Herr Schmidt's liking.

Discussion of who must go on account of what mistake or misjudgement imposes such a heavy burden on the Cabinet that it must be brought to an end sooner or later.

The Chancellor will want to wait and see how the Munich SPD conference shapes, but he must also be keen to ensure that Bonn is in a position to lend his party strong backing in the Hamburg elections, to be held early in June.

Pundits will pore over the new-look Cabinet to see whether it gives any indication who may be in line to take over as SPD leader in the Bundestag from Herbert Wehner.

Herr Wehner is 75. His present term expires next spring and he seems unlikely to stand for re-election.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 3 April 1982)

The late Walter Hallstein European of the first hour

Walter Hallstein, first president of the EEC Commission, died on the day the Common Market's silver jubilee was celebrated in Brussels.

Professor Hallstein (General de Gaulle used to refer to him as the German Professor) sought to further the cause of European integration with perseverance and conviction.

But he failed to overcome the General's opposition to his Hallstein Plan for the Community to be given financial autonomy, subject to control by the European Assembly.

His term as president of the European Commission from 1959 to 1966 was a milestone in European history.

A lawyer and university teacher by profession, he went into politics via Konrad Adenauer. His father was a civil servant in Mainz. He read law in Berlin from 1921 to 1930 and was then appointed to a chair of law at the University of Rostock.

Just before he was called up for war service in 1941 he served as head of department in Frankfurt, where he was vice-chancellor from 1946 to 1948.

In 1949 and 1952 he was a visiting lecturer at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"I have often been asked how I came to practical politics from teaching at university," he told *EG Magazin* 12 years ago. "The Schumann Declaration is the reason why.

"I had just returned to Frankfurt from the Unesco conference in Paris when Herbert Blankenhorn of the Chancellor's Office in Bonn rang to say the Chancellor would like to see me.

"I went to Bonn the next day and Dr Adenauer offered me the job of chief negotiator for the Federal Republic at the talks to set up the European Coal and Steel Community in Paris. It was a fascinating prospect."

Walter Hallstein ... 'the German Professor'. (Photo: Sven Simon)

He was later appointed state secretary at the Chancellor's Office and the Foreign Office and virtually ran German foreign affairs for Chancellor Adenauer.

He negotiated the reparations agreement with Israel, the European Coal and Steel Community and the Brussels treaty by the terms of which the Western Allies granted the Federal Republic full independence.

The Hallstein Doctrine, which was Bonn policy from 1955, was that in foreign affairs all governments that recognised the GDR would be ignored.

Moscow was the only capital in which Bonn tolerated the acceptance of ambassadors representing both German states. But the Hallstein Doctrine failed in the long term to prevent the division of Germany.

Walter Löckel

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 31 March 1982)

■ DEFENCE

Reduced birth rate plays havoc with service manpower estimates

The Bundeswehr is running out of soldiers; and by the end of this decade it will have an annual shortfall of 80,000 recruits.

A still unpublished study concludes that the reduced birth rate because of the Pill could prevent Germany from meeting its commitments to Nato partners.

The military planning staff is already looking to its reservoirs: volunteers, women and foreigners. But the study considers it more than doubtful that this will be enough.

A year ago, Defence Minister Hans Apel said that the Bundeswehr would face enormous personnel problems.

Erwin Horn (SPD), deputy chairman of the Bundestag Defence Committee, says that the Tornado aircraft financing and the shortage of money for fuel are minor problems compared with what is still to face us in the future.

A study by the Study Group Alternative Security Policy (SAS), consisting of politicians, sociologists and young officers and working in close cooperation with Generals Uhlewettler and Löser, concludes that, due to population developments, even an extension of the compulsory service from 15 to 18 months will not be enough to fill the gap.

The recent increase in births will "have no effect on the draft in our century."

While only 15 years ago there were one million births in this country, by 1978 this figure was almost halved.

High-ranking Bundeswehr officers are now pressing for a remedy. Bundeswehr Inspector General Jürgen Brandt has therefore urged parliament to extend military service from 15 to 18 months and to include women and naturalised foreigners before the end of this legislative period.

But neither government nor opposition are particularly eager to adopt the proposal due to the growing peace movement. The fact is that, to offset the anticipated shortfall in the 1990s, national service would have to be extended by at least nine months and probably even more, says mathematician and sociologist Bernd Grass who was responsible for the demographic analysis of the Study Group.

Grass support this contention with irrefutable figures: only 241,000 boys were born in 1975. Yet the Bundeswehr needs an annual 225,000 draftees if it is to maintain its Nato standards; and, assuming an average service period of seven to eight years, it also needs 35,000 new career soldiers.

But experience shows that, after allowing for those found physically or for other reasons unfit for military service, only 75 per cent can be drafted.

The shortfall becomes even greater when considering that of those who are fit for military service, 15,000 join the police or the border guards and another 10,000 to 20,000 do voluntary service with the Red Cross, civil defence, fire brigades, etc., and are unavailable to the Bundeswehr.

By adding 30,000 conscientious objectors, the SAS study arrives at a shortfall at the beginning of the next decade of 110,000 to 120,000 soldiers rather than the 80,000 assumed by Defence Ministry planners.

Data provided by the Sociological Institute of the Bundeswehr indicate that only 5,000 to 10,000 women of the right age would be interested in military service.

The potential of foreigners is estimated at a maximum of 25,000.

Even youth unemployment provides little hope because the low birth rate years that will be joining the labour force in the late 1980s will be needed by the business community; and older jobless can in any event not be counted on in peacetime.

All this means that the Bundeswehr will have to prepare itself to compete with industry. Already, the armed forces are short of thousands of skilled technicians, and industry happens to be offering better pay than the state.

Gerd Rauhaus

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 20 March 1982)

Changes to conscientious objection rules sought

There have been many attempts to amend the right to conscientious objection and civilian service as an alternative to Bundeswehr service.

Everybody agrees that the present system of testing an objector's conscience is unsatisfactory.

Many members of review panels have come under severe fire because of the humiliating questions they ask — and *rightly* so.

But the constitutionally guaranteed right to conscientious objection has also been tarnished by the many potential draftees who refuse armed service only because they hope that no civilian position would be available as an alternative.

The latest attempt by all Bundestag parties to amend the conscientious objection provisions before the summer recess is primarily aimed at eliminating the hearings to test the objector's conscience.

When there is no way of satisfactorily practising a certain procedure it is best to drop it altogether.

After the SPD and FDP, the CDU last summer also adopted a party resolution to that effect.

Though the CDU has now come under pressure from the CSU (which wants to retain the hearing in a modified form), it is well aware that the confidence it has gained among young people would be forfeited if it now departed from the earlier party resolution.

The main dispute in the next few months will concern the duration of civilian service.

It is this duration that should prove how seriously a conscientious objector is to be taken.

The idea is to enact the "irksome alternative" which the Federal Constitutional Court in a 1978 ruling suggested as a possible solution to the "postcard procedure" which the SPD and FDP passed in the Bundestag in 1977.

The question is, at what point does alternative service become unattractive? Is it with 19 months, as proposed by the FDP and the majority of the SPD; or with 21 months, as suggested by the CDU; or perhaps with 24 months, as demanded by the CSU?

The coalition parties should realise that 19 months is not much of a barrier considering that the normal draftee serves not only his 15-month stint in the Bundeswehr but also has to attend subsequent 3-month exercises. An additional six months for objectors should be an acceptable compromise.

There is one thing that must not be overlooked: though the Constitution guarantees *the* right to conscientious objection, this must remain the exception rather than the rule.

But this naturally does not detract from the high value that must be attributed to the work of those doing civilian service.

Heinz-Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 March 1982)

Pacifism 'not the answer'

President Carstens rejects the idea of pacifism as a means of ensuring peace. He told a meeting of soldiers that at first glance the idea that without weapons there could be no war appeared fascinating.

"But, unfortunately, this is just a plan," he told the Bundeswehr staff college in Hamburg. This is the college's silver jubilee year.

President Carstens rejected the use of force as a political instrument, but he said Germany's defence effort was indispensable to counter the use of force by others.

The President stressed that the armed forces serve to preserve peace and to defend the nation and that it is from this that they derive not only their legal but also their moral legitimation.

The college was set up *25 years* ago in Bad Ems.

In 1958, it was moved to Hamburg where it initially trained officers for service as general staff officers.

Since 1976, it has been the central training institution for staff officers of all branches of the armed forces.

dpa

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 20 March 1982)

Youth accepts need for military service, says Bundeswehr report

Most young people, expecially high-school graduates, say that military service is necessary and therefore must be accepted, says Karl Wilhelm Berkhan, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Bundeswehr, in his latest report.

He says that despite this the number of conscientious objectors continues to grow.

Most young soldiers accepted the decision of objectors — as long as no advantage was gained.

Recently, 120 drunken Bundeswehr soldiers made national headlines when they demolished a railway carriage.

Such headlines are not a rarity: but they must not be generalised.

The problems of the Bundeswehr are exactly the same as those of society as a whole, and they range from drug abuse to alcoholism.

The fact is that the Bundeswehr copes with these problems better than schools, universities or companies. It would be wrong to take a drunken soldier as a yardstick for the armed forces as a whole.

The same applies to the contention that soldiers are demoralised by the dullness of the service and all the efforts to create work that goes with it.

The commissioner said that the three-month basic training is regarded as interesting by the recruits. It is after that that charges of dullness and "hanging around" come up.

Unit commanders are now trying to make even guard duty more meaningful and to find a more flexible approach to time off.

More and more victims of abuse by superior officers now summon up the courage to speak out, making it easier to punish the culprits.

The past two years have seen a growing number of recruits suffering.

Neither NCOs and officers in charge of training nor the Defence Ministry know why.

However, NCOs and officers now no longer spend their off-duty hours in barracks.

The morale of the troops, the report says, has not suffered from the fact that the modernisation of weapons and equipment has swallowed up the billions of deutschemarks that would have been needed for improvements in other areas.

The Defence Ministry is, however, worried that elimination of the promotion bottleneck cannot be put into practice.

The growing of the peace movement has not helped to make the service of draftees and career soldiers any easier.

But the Bundeswehr has accepted the peace discussion as a topic, and the soldiers' attitude towards the necessity of defending the country has not been weakened. On the contrary.

Even so, Commissioner Berkhan warns that the peace discussion should not lead to a front against the armed forces and be used to promote reservations against national service.

The Bundeswehr and the draft happen to be political decisions that nobody can seriously contemplate repealing. And this is why even now, in the Bundeswehr's silver jubilee year, the decisions deserve support on all political planes.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 April 1982)



■ LABOUR

Fewer Germans want to change town in search of work

People in the Federal Republic are less inclined than they were to go to another town or city.

According to Professor Karl Schwarz, director of the Federal Institute for Demographic Research, there are two possible immediate reasons.

The tendency towards home ownership is growing; and more people must now take into account their partner's job before deciding to move.

A mobile population is essential, Professor Schwarz says, if people are to make the best use of their talents and skills.

He told the annual meeting of the Society for Demographic Science in Augsburg that the mobile society is on the way out.

Mobilty had been declining since the turn of the century as prosperity grew and the social security network expanded.

Nowadays, the only way to persuade people to move away from home was to offer them much better incomes and "immaterial incentives". This is sufficient cause for alarm among demographic experts.

"It would appear that some of our present labour market problems can only be solved by a general willingness to accept spatial and occupational mobility", says Schwarz.

Other government policies should *also take* increasing note of population shifts.

Environmental planning policy presents a third problem.

A great deal of government money is channelled into environmental planning.

The primary objective of this has been, ever since the government programme on environmental planning was accepted in 1975, to creat and maintain equal living conditions in all parts of the country.

This programme demands a reduction in regional disparities and is aimed at changing the present migration patterns.

It is machines which should be moving towards human beings, and not vice versa.

Whether such a programme can solve the tructural problems in rural areas is another matter.

Vast sums of government funds are not enough to level out the differences between the rural areas and the urban agglomerations.

Experts in demographic research are almost convinced that migration away from rural areas might, in fact, alleviate the latter's structural problems: shortage of housing, unemployment, lack of training positions.

The lack of conviction and the general disorder of environmental planning have led to socio-political problems.

Chairman of the Hessian CDU, Alfred Dregger, pointed this out when he referred to locational planning for an atomic energy reprocessing plant in the state of Hese.

The public had been continually disturbed about contradictory statements, he said.

It was about time this concern is taken seriously.

The fact that locational planners seem to have developed a special liking to the most idyllic parts of West Germany certainly had not helped.

The average West German's living space has dcreased rather than increased over the past year.

This extensive over-crowding has induced a kind of panic effect, reason enough for many West Germans to want emigrate.

Behavioural research experts have long since shown that this is no mere showmanship, the arguments being real enough.

The availability of sufficient space is an existential prerequisite, and its absence upsets basic human instincts.

Political decision-makers can no longer ignore this fact.

Increasing emigration and West Germany's low birthrate speak a language of their own.

Some serious re-thinking has got to be carried our on environmental planning.

Dankwart Guratzsch

(Die Welt, 3 April 1982)

More skilled in dole queue

There has been a marked increase in the number of skilled workers out of a job.

Complaints about the lack of skilled labour have not died out, but they are not so loud.

When the economy picks up again and the unemployed pools of skilled workers is again working, the complaints will be revived.

The situation will then be much as it was at the end of the 1970s. Then, qualified white collar workers were most in demand and skilled blue collar workers not far behind them.

A joint report by the Federal Labour Office's Institute for Labour market and Occupational Research (IAB) and the Ifo Economics Institute in Munich, says 17 per cent of the jobs on offer for skilled workers in the manufacturing industry in 1980 (about 54,000) remained vacant.

Three quarters of these were in small- and medium-scale firms.

The proportion of vacancies for skilled workers in the construction industry was even greater, at 45 per cent (about 57,000).

The better economic situation then is not the sole reason for the lack of skilled workers between *1976* and *1979*.

An assumption often made that there is a lack of sufficient training to cover the number of skilled workers is also wrong.

The authors say the decisive factor is that skilled workers are not always trained where the need is most pressing. Taken as a whole, the number of skilled workers trained on the job exceeds by far the level of required skilled workers or the number of jobs available to such workers.

In 1979, 7.9 million employed West Germans had completed some form of professional training.

Of this figure, 2.2 million went on to complete further training.

At the same time, irrespective of the exact level of qualification obtained, 4 million West Germans were employed as skilled workers.

The number of persons trained as *skilled* workers thus exceeded the number of skilled workers in employment by 3.8 million, or 94 per cent.

Even if only those workers are taken into account who did no further training i.e. 5.6 million, there is still a surplus of 1.6 million persons, or 39 per cent.

The distributional pattern within the employment sector itself is much more important than the quantitative availability of skilled workers.

Many of those trained as skilled workers have since left their intended occupations and are employed in completely different jobs.

Only 54 per cent of those trained as skilled workers (without further training) are to be actually found working as skilled workers or foremen.

42 per cent, or 2.7 million, of trained skilled workers have changed jobs without further training.

Most of these changed immediately after completing their training.

Better working conditions, income opportunities and employment demands are the reasons most frequently given. A further motivation is the insecurity of the previous job.

As shown in the representative survey carried out in 1979, some 1.2 million skilled workers changed jobs because of the working conditions and general insecurity of employment as a skilled worker.

Of all those employed West Germans who had completed training as a skilled worker (without further training, 77,000 (14 per cent) worked as unskilled labour in 1979.

Of these, 113,000 did so in the jobs they were originally trained to do.

A great deal of skilled worker potential is therefore being wasted.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 5 April 1982)

Unemployment imbroglio all sorted out

The coalition has ended a squabble over unemployment regulations. Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg has now been told to approve proposals made by the Federal Labour Office.

The Labour Office's original proposals sought to force unemployment people to accept jobs beneath their level of qualifications.

Herr Ehrenberg made strenuous efforts to modify this by trying to link it with a compulsory registration of job vacancies.

What will happen now is this: all efforts will be made to find appropriate work first. Only when this is unsuccessful will an unemployed person be required to accept something else.

Not only this, the job need not be accepted if another unemployed person can be found with the corresponding level of qualification.

This means that the suitability of employment for a more highly qualified unemployed person depends on whether or not the vacancy can be filled by someone with lower qualifications.

This basically corresponds to standard practice before.

The question of what kind of work can reasonably expected of an unemployed person is of prime importance to the person affected.

If he refuses to accept employment deemed suitable, he forfeits eight weeks' earnings-related benefit. A second refusal means a loss of benefit altogether.

According to the latest regulation, during the initial unemployment period, usually four months — in the case of those employed in their profession much longer, six months — employment need only be accepted which corresponds to work carried out by persons with a similar occupational qualification and a similar training.

The level of qualification is split up into five categories.

Following the initial unemployment period an unemployed person is expected to move down a category.

After a further four months there is a drop down into the next lowest category, and so on.

A longer period of unemployment can thus lead to a situation in which a highly qualified worker will have to accept employment as an unskilled worker.

The suitability criteria can be reduced even faster in the case of transitional employment.

All individual circumstances must be taken into account by the labour offices when making their decisions.

A journeying time of up to two-and-a half hours between the place of residence and the place of work is regarded as reasonable in the case of full-time employment.

The same applies to part-time employment lasting at least six hours.

Two hours commuting time is regarded as reasonable for work lasting less then six hours.

More commuting time has to be accepted if his is normally the case in the region in which the unemployed person lives.

An unemployed person can also be expected to accept so-called "weekend commuting" if supra-regional mobility is usual practice in his desired occupation, or if the residential location makes it impossible to find a day-commuting job to begin with.

In deciding on what can be expected of an unemployed person, family, health and other personal circumstances must be taken into consideration.

After the initial four, or six months as the case may be, a person previously employed in a part-time job can be expected to accept full-time employment.

The only exception are those unemployed persons, who have at last one child to look after, or a person in need of care.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 April 1982)

■ TRADE

Exports buck world trend and give boost to balance of payments

Forecasts indicate that the Federal Republic's balance of payments might well show a surplus this year for the first time since 1978.

Depreciation of the mark plus price increases abroad are boosting the competitiveness of German exporters.

In contrast, the value of finished products imported declined last year in real terms for the first time since 1974.

Exports last year grew in real terms by 6.5 per cent and this year are expected to grow by between 5 and 7 per cent.

In December and January exports were up 12 per cent, adjusted for inflation, compared with the same period a year before. Domestic orders, by comparison, for those two months dropped by an average of 3.5 per cent.

In the last two quarters of 1981, the adjusted export growth figures were 20 and 17 per cent respectively.

If pressure on international commodity prices continues, it is possible that the growth of export prices will exceed that of import prices for the first time since the second major oil price increase.

The Essen-based Rhenish-Westphalian Economic Research Institute, one of the Big five, estimates that a trade surplus of DM55bn is possible this year.

This would be roughly double last year's surplus and be about DM4bn more than the record year 1974.

There are growing deficits in such items as travel and earnings on capital and more money is going out of the country in payment to international organisations and remittances home by foreign workers.

Despite this, it is possible that the balance of payments will come out of the red for the first year since 1978.

If these predictions are accurate it would mean that German companies would regain their former share of world markets.

World trade declined by 1 per cent, adjusted for inflation, last year and is expected to grow by 2 to 3 per cent this year.

This is much less than the expected growth of German exports and shows just how competitive German goods have become.

One reason is that last year the mark depreciated. Another is that prices in foreign countries rose more than in Germany.

This, experts say, was enough to give German goods a real exchange rate advantage of 10 per cent between the end of 1979 and the end of last year.

Opec countries used this price advantage by stepping up their purchases from Germany, primarily capital goods.

Main beneficiaries of this trend have been the makers of capital goods whose wide range of products accounts for about half of Germany's export business.

Commercial vehicles and mechanical engineering showed above average growth rates. So did makers of electrical capital goods.

The chemicals industry did particularly well in its trade in basic materials.

In contrast, the outlook for imports is bleak. Domestic demand remains low and the value of the mark has made imports too expensive. Last year, the value of finished products imported dropped in real terms for the first time since 1974.

In addition, German companies have made strenuous efforts to save energy and to find substitutes for oil-based products.

As a result, the real growth of German imports this year is expected to be no more than two to three per cent. Last year it went down 3.5 per cent in 1981.

If the pressure on international commodity prices continues, there is every possibility that the growth of export prices will outstrip that of import prices for the first time since the second major oil price increase.

This would further improve balance of foreign trade.

Given the assumed greater volume increase in exports than in imports, this would automatically mean growth in trade surpluses.

Last year, the balance of payments deficit was already reduced from about DM30bn to DM18bn.

This was mainly because the trade surplus rose from DM9bn to close to DM28bn.

Statistics show that exports to the main buyer nations rose only slightly while those to the Opec countries showed above-average increases.

Exports to the East Bloc continued to stagnate, Poland, Rumania and the Soviet Union imported considerably less than in 1980.

But imports from the East Bloc rose considerably, mainly from Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

Lothar Julitz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 March 1982)

Warning that Poles might have to default on debts

A lot of the Western credit to Poland will not be repaid, says Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

He suggests that experts should take stock of the West's credit-and-guarantee policy towards the East bloc to date. The aim should be to clarify the extent to which these loans will be repaid.

There is growing fear in Bonn that the Federal government will this year have to make good DM1.4bn worth of guarantees for shipments to Poland.

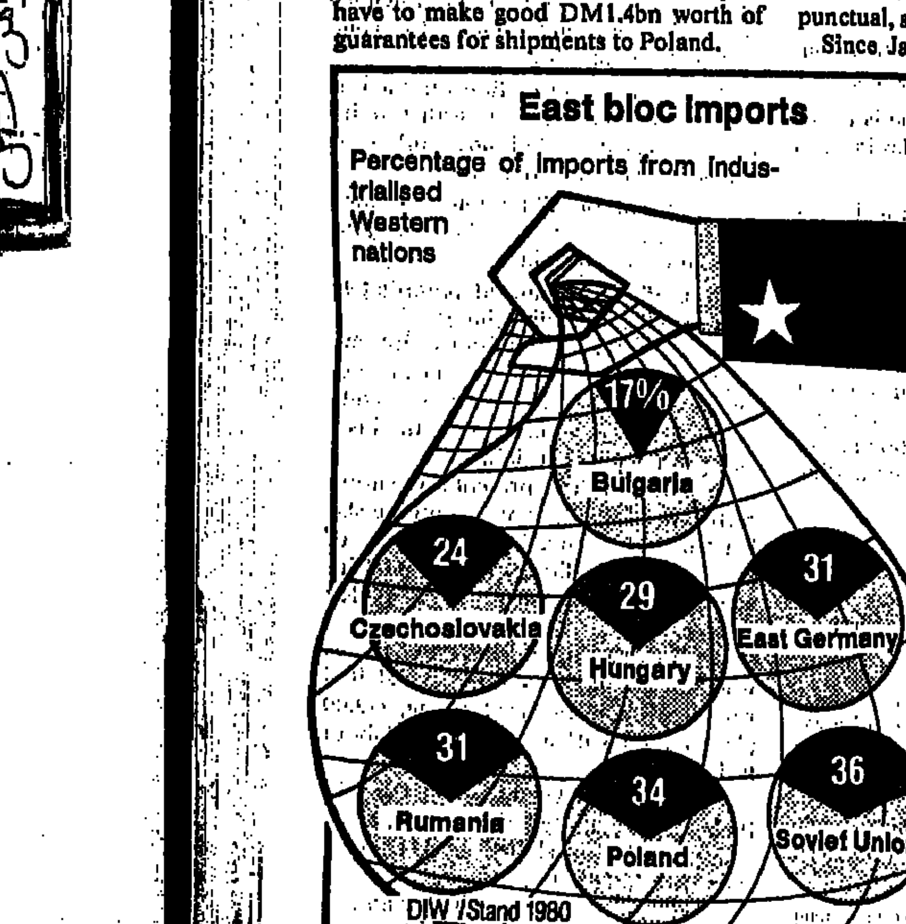
Guarantees given on with trade with Rumania are also likely to be called this year. The amount involved is just under DM1bn.

Trade with the Soviet Union still seems to be running smoothly. Though Bonn's guarantees amount to more than DM10bn, there is little concern because Moscow is still considered to be a sound trading partner.

The same applies to Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Their repayments are punctual, say the banks.

Since January 1982, the Polish state bank has paid the interest owing to 62 German and 497 other Western banks, clearing the way for the rescheduling of the US$ 2.5bn that Poland should have repaid between 26 March and 31 December 1981. This amount is now to be spread over the next seven years. Poland's total foreign debt is estimated at about US$ 27bn, and the amounts due vary from year to year. The Western banks have agreed to deal with the problem of credits to Poland on a year-to-year basis by renegotiating. Talks are already in progress over Poland's repayment commitments 1982.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 March 1982)





Two edges to oil savings sword

The industrialised nations' thrift with oil is dessicating the financial nerves of the Opec nations.

Even such an oil-rich and under-populated country as the United Arab Emirates will have a deficit in its 1982 budget.

But it is hardly a poor nation. It managed to fatten the cow in the years when the oil-consuming countries had no defence against constant price increases.

In contrast, heavily populated oil-producing nations such as Nigeria and Algeria have been unable to finance ambitious development programmes from oil revenues.

But there is no reason to gloat because the goose that laid the golden egg has become less fertile, even though it was at least partly responsible for this country's inflation and unemployment.

The oil-producing nations will now be wondering whether they can still afford to buy from the industrial nations.

And these are the nations that have over the past year come increasingly to fill the order books of the West.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 March 1982)

Opec slows, so everyone slows

The slight upswing in world trade at the end of last year appears to have ended, says the Hamburg-based HWWA Institute for Economic Research.

Part of the reason was probably because oil-exporting countries were importing less, says the Institute in its latest report.

It expects this trend to continue because most Opec countries now face balance of payments problems due to decline in demand and lower prices.

The export earnings of the Opec countries were already 12 per cent lower than a year earlier in the fourth quarter of 1981, the Institute says.

The decline would be even greater if it were not for Saudi Arabia.

There is also every likelihood that the developing countries — even more so the East bloc nations — will cut back on imports still further because of current account problems.

As a result, world trade will again become more heavily dominated by economic trends in the industrial nations.

The recession in the USA and the stagnation in Western Europe are acting as brakes.

But there is a possibility of improvement in the second half of this year. The trade in semi-finished and finished products is likely to show a considerable growth. West European producers are likely to benefit disproportionately due to livelier demand in the industrial countries.

Production stagnation coupled with the simultaneous growth of the working population led to a further increase in unemployment in 1981, according to Gatt reports.

By the end of 1981, the unemployment rate had risen to about 7 per cent. During the 1975 recession, the rate stood at 5 per cent and in 1980 at 6 per cent.

At the same time, the inflation rate was down from an average of 13 per cent in 1980 to 10.5 per cent last year.

High interest rates are not only putting the brakes on the economies of the individual countries but also on the international exchange of goods, services and capital, says Gatt.

The high interest rate policy reflected "above all the fear of a monetary policy that could engender more inflation."

The fact that this fear is not unfounded is evidenced by the "chaotic increase of inflation" in the past 15 years. Moreover, any short-term reduction of interest rates would have no noticeable effects on the labour market, say the Gatt experts.

dpa/VWD

(Mannheimer Morgen, 30 March 1982)

■ BUSINESS

Self-employed a species on the decline, reveals research institute

The self-employed businessman is a declining force in Germany: between 1970 and 1980 the number dropped by 270,000, or 10 per cent.

Over the same period the number of family members working for their self-employed relative has dropped by 653,000, or 37.7 per cent.

The *Institut für Mittelstand* (institute for research into small and medium-sized businesses) says in its latest report that the proportion of self-employed to the working population as a whole declined steadily over the decade.

The report reveals a change in the pattern of bankruptcies: until 1978 individual businessmen were the main victims.

But in 1979 and 1980 limited liability companies emerged as the main victims.

In 1978, 23.5 of every 1,000 limited liability companies went to the wall.

The institute defines medium-sized and small firms as having payrolls of less than 500 and annual turnovers of up to DM100m.

It says that small and medium-sized firms:

- Comprise 99.8 per cent of firms subject to turnover tax.
- Contribute some 55 per cent of all taxable turnover.
- Make about 41 per cent of all commercial investment.
- Employ 64 per cent of wage and salary earners.
- Account for 55 per cent of private GDP and 48 per cent of the overall GDP.

More than two-thirds of the self-employed work more than 45 hours a week. So do about half of the next-of-kin helping out in the business.

In the month under review (April 1980), the average weekly working time was 56 hours, more than 25 per cent more than that of employed labour (41.3 hours).

In 1978, 1,666,406 firms subject to turnover tax accounted for sales of DM2,583,827m.

Of these, 87.3 per cent had annual turnovers of less than DM1m but they accounted for only 12.3 per cent of the total turnover.

Of businesses with an annual turnover of between DM1m and DM100m 12.6 per cent accounted for 42.6 per cent of the total turnover. The remaining 45.1 per cent was made by 2,224 major companies (0.1 per cent).

The assets of German firms have been diminishing. In 1967 the ratio between wholly-owned assets and the balance sheet volume of German companies was 31.4 per cent, according to Bundesbank figures. In 1979 the ratio was down to 21.5 per cent.

The Bundesbank figures also indicate that the legal form of a company has a bearing on its wholly-owned assets. But there is no positive connection between sales figures and a company's assets.

It is difficult to figure the profit ratio in relation to the size of a company. If at all, this has a bearing only in partnerships and individually owned firms.

In partnership companies, annual profits are 4.4 per cent of turnover for companies with sales of less than DM10m. Those with sales in excess of DM100m show a profit ratio of 2.1 per cent.

Therefore, the bigger the sales, the smaller the profit ratio.

The same applies to individual businessmen. Other studies have also shown that the larger a business the smaller its wholly-owned assets and profits on turnover.

Large companies tend to be less capital productive (gross asset creation at market prices in relation to depreciation to be deducted from new capital investment) than small and medium ones.

For instance: in 1978, companies with a payroll of 20 to 49 showed a capital productivity of 12.4 per cent; in the category between 50 and 99 employed, the ratio was 12.6 per cent and for major companies with a payroll of 1,000 or more it was 9.8 per cent.

Productivity (asset creation at market prices relative to the size of the payroll) rises in direct proportion to the number of people employed.

In the same years (1978), companies employing 20 to 49 people had a productivity of DM40,865 per worker. This figure stood at DM58,129 for companies employing 1,000 or more.

The ratio of small and medium-sized firms doing research and development is smaller than for larger firms. The R & D ratio grows in proportion to the size of a business.

Small and medium-sized companies find it more meaningful to opt for process innovation rather than product innovation and to buy rather than create innovations through purchases of patents and licences and commissioning outside research.

(Handelsblatt, 24 March 1982)

Moonlighting, a popular pastime with spectacular rewards

Bonn has taken steps to stamp on the black economy, that illegal area of activity where work is done, money changes hands — and no tax is paid.

Dresdner Bank economists that moonlighting amounts to another 13 per cent on top of the gross national product.

The black economy is growing: tradesmen working in their spare time, civil servants earning undeclared money on the side, teachers teaching after hours, architects designing houses for their friends.

Main reason is that the tax load has nearly doubled since 1960.

There is a strong school of thought that says there is a point where higher taxes just do not generate more money for the state, that they have the opposite effect.

It could be that Germany has reached that point.

According to the Allensbach Opinion Research Institute, 3.3 million Germans moonlight an average of three hours a day doing either paid or unpaid sideline work.

The result is that the already suffering business community loses orders, the state loses revenue, and the social security system gets nothing either.

A spokesman of the union of revenue department employees: "Rough estimates put the tax revenue loss at at least DM2bn."

The range of possibilities is almost unlimited because even our laws against illegal work contain no provisions banning "favours" and "neighbourly help".

But where does friendship stop and illegal work start? The Bonn government is trying to decide. Since the beginning of this year, anybody who "obtains economic advantages of considerable proportions" as a result of such work is liable to prosecution. Previous provisions put the onus on the court to prove "striving for gain".

But the authorities' scope of action has not been widened by the new legislation.

A spokesman of the Central Trades Association would have liked to have seen the words "considerable proportions" deleted from the new law.

"We need such facts as how often and how long a certain person has actually moonlighted on say, a construction site," she said.

She said that of the 69 million repair and maintenance jobs on motor vehicles in 1981, 35 per cent were on a do-it-yourself basis.

The association reckons that one-third of this was pure illegal work commissioned for payment. This means a loss to the garage business of about DM8m, or DM360 per job.

Tradesmen are now trying to fight their own black sheep, in some cases by hiring private detectives.

But this is a risky business says the chief of the Essen Trades Association, Dieter Schade. It can backfire if no sound evidence, is obtained.

Although the Düsseldorf Chamber of Trades imposed DM406,000 in fines for bricklayers and DM245,000 for car sprayers in 1981, the total is just a drop in the ocean.

The temptation to employ illegal labour to get a roadworthiness certificate for the car, considering that garages charge DM60 per hour for repair work, is great.

There is a ready market for such deals without an invoice and there is more than enough labour to go around.

The greater the state cash burden on the citizen, the more attractive the black system becomes.

According to the Central Association of the Garage Business, there are hardly any emergency services left in this line of business (for weekends and after hours).

The overtime this would earn the mechanics goes mostly to the tax man and therefore offers no incentive.

Isa Heusmann-Kleiber

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 24 March 1982)

■ BACKGROUND

What really lies behind the Brezhnev offer?

Mr Brezhnev has finally given an undertaking called for time and again by the West. Moscow is unilaterally to end further deployment of SS-20 medium-range missiles in European Russia.

Soviet commentators say the move is a generous gesture that proves Russia is a peace-loving country. Western government spokesmen say it is a mere propaganda trick.

The truth probably lies somewhere in between.

As proof of Soviet love of peace the gesture is a little scanty. Far from as much as freezing the Soviet missile lead, it permits further expansion.

For the time being no more SS-20s are to be deployed in European Russia, but otherwise the Soviet Union is making no promises.

Only a third of its SS-20 launching pads are in Europe. The other two thirds are in the Urals and the Far East respectively. The moratorium will not apply beyond the Urals.

For Western Europe it is neither here nor there whether the missiles are in the western or the central sector; the Soviet SS-20s have a range of 5,000km.

Thus the Soviet moratorium applies to only half the modern missiles aimed at targets in Western Europe. The other half may be reinforced at leisure.

Even this half-hearted gesture comes at a time when the SS-20 programme has almost been completed. Three hundred SS-20 systems are operational; 200, with three warheads each, are aimed at targets in Western Europe.

Not many more will have been envisaged. Western estimates have for years assumed the Soviet Union was planning to deploy between 300 and 400 SS-20s.

Mr Brezhnev's gesture is a bid to make out the completion of an arms *programme carried out energetically over the past few years to signify Soviet* arms restraint.

Even to this extremely modest act of restraint the Soviet leader attaches conditions. So there is no lack of drawbacks to the Kremlin's move.

But is it right to dismiss Mr Brezhnev's announcement as a bluff aimed solely at making public opinion in Western Europe unsure of itself and thereby undermining political suport for the Nato missile modernisation programme?

The Soviet move definitely comes too late in the proceedings. It is also too half-hearted and, in military terms, *irrelevant.*

But it is by no means a matter of course for the Soviet Union to go it alone in ending an arms build-up, so we should be grateful for small mercies.

Western governments have complained for so long about the Soviet arms build-up in the medium-range sector. They cannot dismiss as insignificant a formally proclaimed and verifiable Soviet measure of self-restraint, no matter how great its shortcomings might be.

Besides, Mr Brezhnev's speech announcing the Soviet move provides a useful guide to the Soviet attitude toward medium-range missiles in general and the problems this sector entails.

First, the Soviet Union sees as its terms of reference all nuclear devices in Europe capable of reaching targets in Russia.

Where Soviet devices are concerned *they are taken to mean only medium-*range missiles in European Russia, not the sum total of missiles and nuclear bombers capable of reaching targets in Western Europe.

This accounts for what the West regards as inaccurate Soviet statistics *indicating an East-West balance in* medium-range nuclear potential.

It seems reasonable to assume that the Soviet Union will energetically reject any attempt to limit, at the Geneva talks, its leeway in non-European Russia.

Second, in Soviet eyes the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles Nato plans to introduce *at the end of next year to offset* the Soviet missile build-up are American strategic arms.

They ought thus to have been included in the Salt talks. If they remain outside their scope the strategic situation will, as Mr Brezhnev put it in October 1979, have undergone a change.

This change would call for strategic counter-measures, in other words counter-measures aimed a representing at threat to US territory.

This basic Soviet assumption has been ignored or misunderstood by pundits who saw the missile modernisation programme as potentially limiting nuclear hostilities to Europe.

The Soviet Union, as Mr Brezhnev has reiterated in a threatening tenor,will not be limiting counter-measures to Western Europe.

Third, the Soviet leaders are still undecided whether Western missile modernisation can be prevented more effectively by negotiation or by appeals to opponents of missile modernisation in the West.

Tactically, the two may be reconcilable, but they cannot be reconciled in the long term.

Might not political destabilisation of missile modernisation in Western Eur*ope turn the United States against arms* control altogether?

Might not US missile programmes such as sea-based Cruise missiles then be embarked on with even greater determination?

The Soviet leaders have taken their time before declaring a partial moratorium in SS-20 deployment. This may have been because they were expecting opponents of missile modernisation to make headway without Moscow having to make any concessions worth mentioning.

But another explanation carries at least *as much conviction for a regime* that takes a largely cynical view of dissatisfaction and dissent in its own country.

It is that, from the viewpoint of the Soviet leaders, it is not worthwhile making concessions anywhere other than at the conference table.

If Mr Brezhnev in his October 1979 East Berlin appeal had announced an SS-20 moratorium, the December 1979 Nato resolution on missile modernisation coupled with disarmament talks would politically not have been feasible.

But the Kremlin seems cautiously to have reasoned that a country's arms potential was a known quantity, whereas no-one could tell whether a peace movement would get its way or opponents of missile modernisation prevail in a German Social Democratic Pary weakened by electoral defeats.

That is why the West's response to Mr Brezhnev's announcement must amount to more than mere rejection. The Soviet missile moratorium, even though it may not count for much, is a modest step forward.

The way to try and wring further concessions from the Soviet Union is at the Geneva talks. In Geneva, Western policies must be put across to the Russians so as to make them feel serious negotiations would be worth their while.

This presupposes three points:

- The missile modernisation programme itself must retain credibility. The Soviet Union will only be prepared to make genuine concessions once it realises that the programme cannot be stymied by peace appeals or by scanty gestures.
- The West must patiently seek a *workable compromise.* The zero option proposed by President Reagan last November and the Brezhnev plan of last February envisaging a reduction in medium-range missile systems of two thirds by 1990 may be starting points, but they are not realistic negotiating targets.
- The Geneva talks must be followed by a resumption of the Salt talks. Failing this credible prospect the Soviet Union will continue to doubt whether it is worth its while to make concessions in Geneva.

For Moscow the dialogue with the *United States on strategic arms* is more important by far than the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces.

Maybe the Soviet leaders do in fact suspect that the prospects of a new Salt agreement will be dim unless they make a serious attempt to come to terms in Geneva.

Conversely, however, the incentive to show willing is small as long as Salt II remains shelved by the US Senate and the Reagan administration fails, as it has done for the past year, to arrive at a Salt concept it feels to be worthwhile.

The Soviet offer must be welcomed *sceptically and made the subject of* serious negotiation.

Christoph Bertram
(Die Zeit, 26 March 1982)

The carrot and the stick

Herbert Wehner, veteran leader of the Social Democrats in the Bonn Bundestag, sees Mr Brezhnev's missile moratorium offer as a sign of movement on arms limitation.

He may just be saying so because he has to assuage naive and dangerous dreamers in the SPD led by Erhard Eppler and Oskar Lafontaine and has to do so before the Munich party conference.

Herr Eppler, a former Bonn Cabinet Minister, an Herr Lafontaine, the mayor of Saarbrücken, lead the wing of the Social Democratic Party that sympathises with the peace movement.

In point of fact Mr Brezhnev's announcement is a warning sign. It shows yet again that Moscow is not interested in genuine disarmament in Europe.

The Soviet Union is pulling out all the stops to maintain its own deterrent potential while getting Nato to stall on missile modernisation.

It hopes to be strongly supported by the peace movements in Europe and America, and they are the targets of Mr Brezhnev's announcement.

As usual, the carrot is accompanied by a stick, intended this time to intimidate the Americans. The note of blackmail in Mr Brezhnev's speech made it clear how the Soviet Union intended to use its nuclear superiority.

So his offer is in reality a red herring deigned to conceal Moscow's true intentions, which are to maintain the Soviet medium-range missile monopoly in Europe and expose the continent to a constant nuclear threat.

The aim of this manoeuvre is to make it easier for the Soviet Union to extent its influence to the west *and to decouple Europe from America.*

These objectives are so transparent it is almost impossible to understand why Mr Brezhnev's offers are repeatedly taken seriously.

How credible is he really? In May 1978, on a visit to Bonn, he agreed with Chancellor Schmidt that neither side ought to aim at military superiority.

At that time the Soviet Union had 80 SS-20 missiles deployed. Now it has 300, with 900 warheads. Yet even then Mr Brezhnev worked on the assumption of there being a nuclear balance in Europe.

He still does so now that only Moscow has deployed medium-range missiles and not Nato. In reality only Nato has chosen to abide by a moratorium, although it is a limited one in respect of time.

Mr Brezhnev's moratorium is no such *thing because SS-20s* are clearly going to continue to be produced.Their deployment on the other side of the Urals makes Europe none the safer by any yardstick.

He has also chosen to make no mention of the new SS-23 short-range missiles. Capable of travelling 1,000km, they too could strike at targets in the Federal Republic of Germany.

A Soviet arms build-up in this sector would undermine the short-range moratorium called for in the draft resolution to be submitted to the Munich SPD conference by the party executive.

It is very much in keeping with Soviet policy to confront the West with a fait *accompli,* then to cry "Stop, thief!" if the other side makes any attempt to restore the balance.

It is only fair to note that for years the Soviet Union was trailing the West but on reaching parity with the United States it did not scale down its arms build-up, instead establishing regional superiority in Europe in particular.

This superiority can no longer be offset by US strategic superiority. Besides, it calls the credibility of the US nuclear shield for Europe into question.

Would Washington give the order to fire strategic missiles and risk its own destruction in the event of an attack on Europe?

That was why Chancellor Schmidt referred in 1977 to the threat to Europe and called for a balance to be struck in medium-range nuclear potential: to prevent the decoupling of Europe from America.

In other words, but for the Soviet medium-range missile build-up there would not have been a missile modernisation resolution by Nato.

There was no military need for Russia to embark on its arms build-up. Af-

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■ RESEARCH

Europe secures its place in the sun

Ariane, the European launcher rocket, is arguably not aimed at the same market as the American space shuttle. It need not fear the Columbia's competition.

The two launcher vehicles operate at different altitudes and are, in a manner of speaking, in different lines of business.

The Ariane is a one-off rocket but puts satellites exactly in geostationary orbit at an altitude of 36,000km.

The Columbia is reusable and designed to take up a heavier payload, but it is less capable of putting satellites *into an exact orbit.*

Ariane also has the advantage of being immediately available, whereas the space shuttle has yet to prove that it can do what people say it can.

Customers from all over the world are on the waiting list for an Ariane flight and willing to pay up to $35m for a place in space.

Competition for commercial returns on use of space is fierce not only in space itself but also on terra firma, with German aerospace engineers sensing uneasily that they are due for relegation to the minor league.

In a memorandum on the future of space travel in Germany the aerospace industry (Dornier, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm and Erno) and the Aerospace Research Institute sound a warning.

They call on the Bonn Research Ministry, the Federal government and industry to step up their commitments and to give higher priority to space research.

Its fundamental importance will further increase, the memorandum says:

"In view of the immense development and applications potential of space travel for public and private purposes the Federal Republic ought substantially to intensify its political, economic and financial commitments in space technology.

"Otherwise it will stand to suffer substantial direct and indirect economic damage in the long term."

*This is said to apply to telecommuni*cations, to military uses, to development, to development aid, to meteorology, to environmental protection and to research in general.

The United States is investing heavily in space travel. Nasa's overall space budget for 1983 has been increased by 12, its budget for basic research by 17 per cent.

Manfred Fuchs, an engineer with Erno Space Technology in Bremen, sounded a note of gloom in giving the memorandum its first public airing at a conference of aviation correspondents in Lisbon.

"We are standing in the corner gathering dust," he said. "There is no motivation." This year's Bonn Research Ministry space budget totals DM760m.

Japan, France and even Sweden and Italy are investing much more in subsidies. They all take space travel seriously as an economic factor.

In Bonn the increase in government spending in space research has since 1971 consistently remained below the average expenditure growth rate.

A highly qualified payroll has been cut from 5,700 to 3,200 and the decline cannot be stopped given the lack of long-term prospects and a specific 10-year plan.

In 1980 the West invested over $10bn in space research, but Europe's share was a mere 10 per cent. America's share, in comparison, is particularly lucrative in terms of the business it generates.

About 80 per cent of the profitable satellite business is handled by American companies. European firms are only beginning to gain a foothold in this lucrative market.

The Japanese are serious competitors, if that is the right term for a country *that outstripped Germany back in 1977.* They invested $13bn, as against only $11bn invested by Bonn.

"The consequences," the memorandum curtly notes, "are already apparent."

After a successful development period of major projects such as the Spacelab, Ariane and initial communications satellites further orders are not coming in. Funds for new projects are not available.

Yet these initial projects, Herr Fuchs told aviation correspondents, were an excellent starting point that was jeopardised by the government's failure to provide follow-up.

Only lately US politicians, scientists and Nasa spokesmen had said they would be happy to intensify collaboration with Germany, Europe and Japan on future space tasks.

The most far-reaching example of *what they had in mind was the plan for* an international manned reserarch platform in outer space.

"The larger units of the European Spacelab, built mainly in Germany, are well suited for use as part of the space platform," he said. This was an advantage that ought at all costs to be maintained. Maintaining and increasing the performance and competitive capacity of industry is closely linked with space research, the industry says. As an industrialised country with few natural resources the Federal Republic of Germany must rely on superior technology to ensure the export markets it needs. This particularly applies to space-linked sectors. Herr Fuchs referred to the Bundespost, whose telecom division had benefited most from advanced technology. The *annual rent the Post* Office paid for a transatlantic telephone channel had been reduced from $ 32,000 in 1965, when the exhange rate was DM4 to the dollar, to $5,040 in 1980, when the rate was nearer DM2. Satellite links had enabled the Bundespost to cut the cost to the consumer fo a transatlantic telephone call from DM10 to DM6 per minute.

The Bundespost now planned to invest in space technology and commission a satellite to use, from 1986, the 20 to 30 gigahertz frequency.

The contracts were to be awarded solely to German electronics and space engineering companies. They would mean work for, say, AEG, Erno and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm.

Ariane, the European launcher rocket pioneered by France, is to be further developed. It first appeared on the drawing-board in 1973 and last year finally showed in practice what it could do.

The aim now is to increase payload and earn money. Ariane has already put one-tonne satellites into exact orbit. Payload capacity is to be extended gradually to four tonnes.

Ariane currently is 47 metres (154ft) tall and has a maximum diameter of 3.60 metres (12ft). Plans are to make it longer (nearly 60 metres, or 200 ft) and, of course, heavier.

The first of its three stages will be boosted from 140 to 220 tonnes of fuel, and extra booster rockets will be attached to further increase thrust and payload capacity.

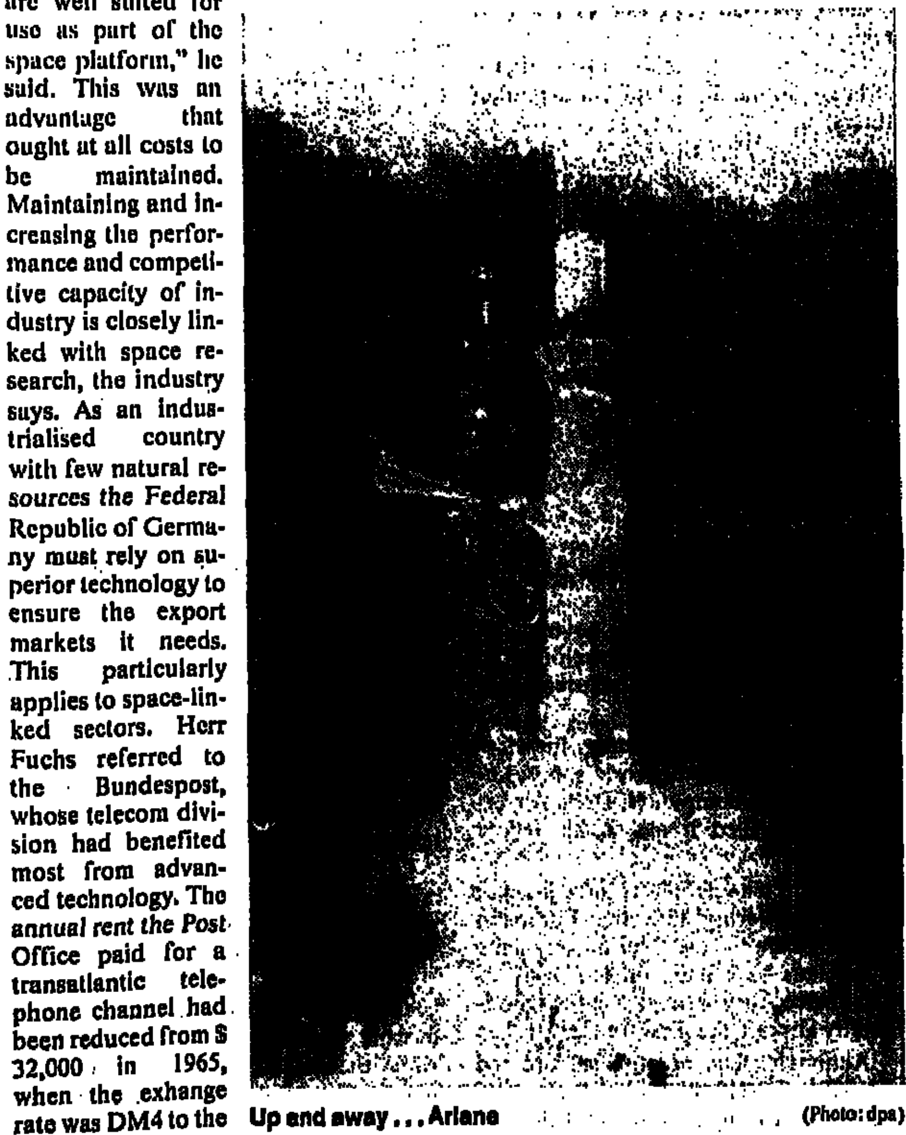
A satellite weighing up to two tonnes will then be capable not only of being launched by Ariane but also of being put into geostationary orbit at 36,000km.

This is the weight needed by the latest generation of communications satellites to relay teleprinter and telephone calls, data and TV programmes.

Booster rockets can use either liquid or solid fuel. They will be 10 to 16 metres long, up to three metres in diameter and carry up to 40 tonnes of fuel.

They are to provide additional thrust in the initial post-takeoff stage. Solid

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Up and away . . . Ariane (Photo: dpa)

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ter *the 1962 Cuban crisis President* Kennedy in return for the Soviet missile withdrawal from Cuba withdrew from Europe all US missiles capable of reaching Soviet territory.

In return for the British and French nuclear deterrents and for the US Poseidon submarine missiles the Soviet Union was allowed, by the terms of the Salt agreements, to maintain land-based ICBMs.

America's forward-based systems, which are mainly bombers equipped with nuclear devices, are offset by comparable Soviet capacity Mr Brezhnev invariably ignores in his equations.

Mr Brezhnev evidently regards Europe as second-rate. How else could he possibly threaten counter-measures, if missile modernisation were to be carried out, that would put US territory in a comparable position?

This is to equate Europe with Cuba, but Western Europe is not an American base in the sense that Cuba is a Soviet base; it is a group of countries allied with the United States.

Unlike Cuba, they face a nuclear threat and must accordingly think in terms of suitable defence precautions.

The reference to Cuba was well understood in Washington, being taken to mean that America could avoid a fresh and altogether more dangerous missile crisis in its own back yard if only it were to forget about missile modernisation in Europe.

This blackmail bid is unlikely to make *much impression on* Reagan, Weinberger and Haig — as long, that is, as the idea is not taken up by the growing American peace movement.

The peace movement might sense the possibility of forgoing missile modernisation as a means of saving the heavy *expenditure it would entail.*

This it might well do, given that US supprters of an arms moratorium work on the assumption of parity between the superpowers and, thinking along superpower lines, overlook the threat to Europe.

Mr Brezhnev's moratorium proposal is too vague to be a serious subject for negotiation.

The next Soviet move will be a proposal for negotiations with Europe on a reduction of SS-20s by two thirds over the decade — in return for corresponding cuts in the British and French nuclear potential.

The United States would then retain only a small European nuclear capacity. It would be decoupled from Europe once and for all and Soviet supremacy would be guaranteed.

British and French nuclear weapons have so far been excluded from nuclear equations for good reason.

They are sea-based and thus not always operational. France is not a member *of the Nato military set-up.* Only American missiles can demonstrate clearly to the Soviet Union that it is at war with Nato.

So the Anglo-French deterrent ought to continue not to be taken into account, especially as its inclusion would make the Geneva talks inordinately complicated.

The zero option of SS-20s being scrapped in return for a Nato decision to forgo missile modernisation should remain the West's prime objective.

Calls for an end to the arms build-up or a moratorium are only designed to relieve the Soviet Union of the burden of being required to negotiate seriously. They jeopardise disarmament.

Dieter Schröder
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 March 1982)



■ AVIATION

Bonn announces cash support for Airbus project on eve of 310's first flight

As the new Airbus, the A310, was being prepared for take off on its maiden flight, the Bonn government decided to continue its financial support for the project.

It announced details of a package designed to help the entire Airbus programme from production to sales.

Airbus Industrie is a consortium of European nations, France, Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands.

Airbus production manager at the Toulouse plant in southern France, Hartmut Mehdorn, says it will not be long before demand for the short and medium-haul A310 exceeds supply.

There are already 180 orders for the latest of the Airbus line, the most modern short-medium haul airliner in the world.

The leading customer so far is Lufthansa, with 50, Swissair wants 20.

The aircraft can accommodate between 210 and 236 passengers at 890 kilometres an hour (about 550 mph).

Its maiden flight fulfils the prediction made two years ago by Mehdorn's predecessor, Felix Kracht, one of the pioneers of the European aircraft industry.

Kracht was also a decisive factor in coordinating the various approaches to aircraft building of the nationalities involved in the Airbus project, the French, British, Germans and Dutch.

Europeans have been waiting a long time for this day.

It symbolically marks the successful cooperation between some of the most technologically advanced aircraft manufacturers and operators in Europe.

At long last the Europeans are able to hold their own against the Americans, who had always feared this sort of competition.

The principal American competition comes, of course from the Boeing 767.

The A310 is the ultimate both technically and economically. It has a new wing design.

The cockpit has the latest in digitalised instrumentation and monitoring system.

Noise hs been reduced and fewer fumes are produced.

A A310 has a 6 per cent advantage in fuel consumption over the bigger A300 and operational costs will be about 12 to 15 per cent lower because of savings brought about by the new wings, shortened fuselage and improved engines.

The involvement of Lufthansa and Swissair was essential to the whole project, just as the involvement of Air France and Lufthansa once helped put the A300 into the air.

Both Lufthansa and Swissair have avoided economic problems by clever marketing policies.

Not only were they in a position to give the first orders, but they also gave technical support.

All development and construction deadlines have been met.

Eighty-eight definite sales and 90 options have come in with Lufthansa (50 orders), Swissair (20), Air France (15) taking the lead.

Overseas companies also figure strongly, to the dismay of US manufacturers.

Canada's Wardair (12), Middle East Airlines (19), Nigeria Airways (8), Libyan Arab Airlines (10), and Kuwait Airlines (8) are just some.

American competitors are being forced to brace themselves.

Boeing, for example, has not been so successful with its 767.

They sarcastically refer, to the Airbus Industrie as a "public enterprise".

French sales manager in Toulouse, Pierre Pailleret, disputes this:

"Admittedly, the Airbus could not have reached this stage had it not been for substantial state aid. However, such support has ceased to be the basis for our business successes.

"And after all, the US government didn't exactly hold back in helping out American aircraft manufacturers with sales orders."

It was Robert Opperlander, the vice-president of one of the world's most important airline companies, Delta Air Lines, who spelled it out to his fellow Americans:

"The US manufacturers have just got to start believing that the European threat is here to stay. Not only can the Europeans look back on ten years of experience, they can also build good-quality aircraft, the kind we can use."

Although Delta has not yet ordered an A300 or A310, it has let Boeing and McDonnell Douglas know that their final choice on which 150-seater jet to take is still open.

Construction on the third Airbus, the A320, could start this summer, if the go-ahead is given.

"It could be in the air by autumn 1985. The Americans know this only too well", says Airbus production manager, Mehdorn.

What the Europeans still do not know, however, is where the two billion dollars in development costs, will come from.

But optimism is not dented.

Bernhard Ziegler, vice-president of the Airbus Industrie since 1971, and West German test-pilot, Udo Guenzel, say:

"Ever since the A300 took off years ago, we've never had doubts about its success. Even during the rough periods, in which many experts were knocking the Airbus's chances, we believed in the quality of our airliner."

In the meantime, good news has come from Bonn. Last week the West German cabinet decided to continue support for Airbus.

Up until 1985, DM165m, in the form of a conditionally repayable loan, will finance the West German part of the A300—600 development programme.

Approval was granted to the planning of the overall programme — 860 jet airliners of the A300 and A310 variety.

The framework of financial guarantees for serial production was raised from DM2.85bn to DM4.1bn.

Finally, sales financing support was extended by DM288m for a further airliners, reaching a level of DM2.044bn until 1986.

Karl Morgenstern

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 2 April 1982)

Euro rocket

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fuel booster rockets will be designed for reuse, as are the space shuttle's rockets.

After burning out and parting company with the parent rocket they will float down by parachute, splash down and be retrieved and refuelled for their next mission.

This is a technique the Ariane's European sponsors, especially the French, who are footing over 60 per cent of the bill and stand to recoup a similar proportion of their costs, hope to try out in their rocket's first stage.

This autumn the first attempt will be made to retrieve the initial stage and check to what extent it can be reused.

Customers from all over the world have booked launchings for 33 satellites so far, with a further 10 options having been taken out.

Ariane is doing brisk business and the German aerospace industry is earning money from the venture too.

German aerospace experts are considering plans to shoot radioactive waste into outer space and maybe even run nuclear power stations there. This surely is a market with a future.

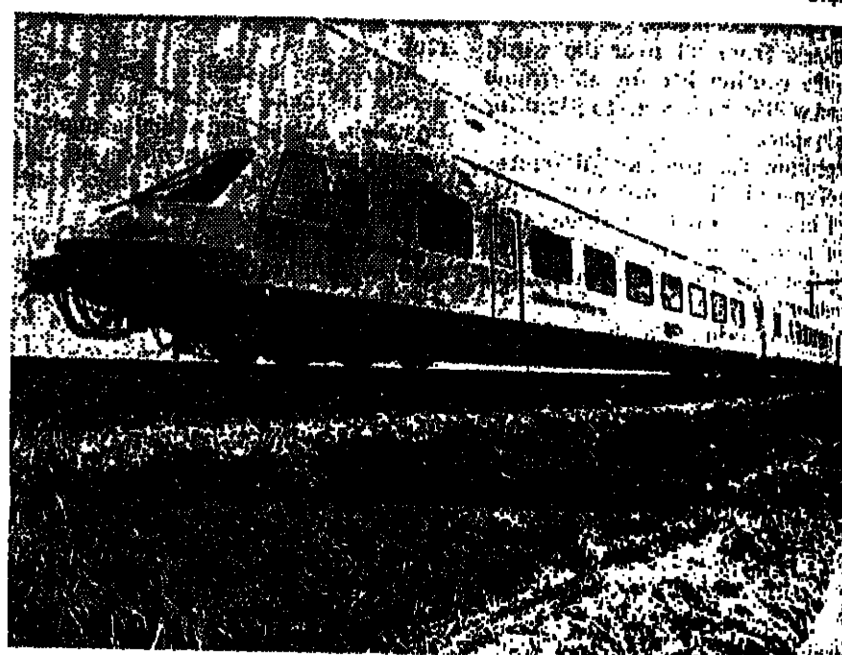
The memorandum refers to a billion-mark market for nuclear waste disposal in space and for harnessing space energy for power generation on earth.

"The Federal Republic will clearly not be going it alone," Herr Fuchs said, "but Bonn would do well to ensure that it has a part to play in any plans."

Ariane is an example of how Europeans can join forces and successfully compete with the United States.

Wilfried Wessendorf

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 March 1982)



On the way to Frankfurt, Lufthansa style. (Photo: Lufthansa)

Lufthansa comes down to earth with train feeder service

Travellers using Frankfurt Airport can now travel direct to the airport by train from Cologne, Bonn or Düsseldorf.

Lufthansa has chartered trains which are available only to people with air tickets. The trip is cheaper than connecting flights.

The reason for the service is that some domestic short-haul flights run at a loss. It might be more economical to cut these services and substitute the train journey.

The customer is to be enticed by attractive and speedy connections.

The Airport Express will travel to and from Frankfurt airport four times a day during peak traffic.

This means that the most important international connections can be met.

Users are in for a special kind of rail travel experience.

Lufthansa have chartered the 3 ultra-modern ET 403/404 electric railcars which had been neglected ever since the advent of the Intercity system.

The streamlined, stylish coaches have been tarted up in Lufthansa yellow up to window level. The writing is in blue, while the Lufthansa crane symbol and upholstery could be found in any DC10.

These outward features already make this service stand out.

The luxury Airport Express, 100 metres long, seats 132 passangers, slightly fewer than a Boeing 737, and can reach speeds of up to 160 kilometres an hour.

Four stewards or stewardesses hand out meals, drinks, newspapers and magazines.

Two more see to the luggage, which is cleared for customs during the journey.

The Lufthansa train is available to anyone holding a valid flight ticket for any scheduled flight from Düsseldorf or Cologne/Bonn via Frankfurt to any destination in the world.

This project will not only attract those air passengers who have to travel to Düsseldorf or Cologne airport by train anyway, but also those travelling on business from city centres.

It takes just under two hours for the journey from Cologne's central station to Frankfurt airport.

Including the journey to and from the airport, the waiting period and the actual flight time itself, the present scheduled flight is not all that much faster.

Gerd Depenbrock

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 28 March 1982)

■ EXHIBITIONS

Carelessly thrown away, carefully put together



Von Marées: a self portrait (1883).

Seventy drawings by Hans von Marées (1837-1887) are on show at the Palatinate Gallery in Kaiserslautern. They are studies he cast carelessly aside; students and friends preserved them for posterity.

They date from his later years, 1873 to 1886, a period he spent in Italy. He was dubbed the last German Roman, and his work testifies to both his native German north and the Mediterranean south.

Art historians have long called him a failure, but it is hard to see why. The Kaiserslautern exhibition is a sight for sore eyes amid the unreasonable demands made on art-lovers by modern art.

It is an island of light in the dark winter of our discontent and a far cry from the work of spray-can graffiti artists on bare walls on show at one major gallery.

'A Satanic striving for perfection'

Biased and unsuspecting critics may have dubbed him a failure, but Hans von Marées failed only in terms of what Carwin has called his "dreadful, well-nigh Satanic striving for ideal perfection," a yardstick few would nowadays care to use.

So failure is hardly the right term, and the drawings triumphantly testify to his artistic accomplishment. There is no need for the apologetic query posed in the catalogue.

Why, we are asked, should an exhibition of Hans von Marées' work be held in 1982? it might have been more to the point to ask why not sooner and why not more often?

The answer given by Wolfgang Stolte says no more than what is self-evident, but it seems to have been necessary and hits the nail on the head:

"These drawings stand for the innermost being of art. They must be seen for the timeless validity of the unity of the beautiful and the true portrayed in an individual and vivid manner."

Wilhem Hausenstein, the art critic and essayist, once said of Marées that he was "like a metaphysical force that intervenes in our world from on high to impose on it a unity of artistic consciousness."

Art historian Julius Meier-Graefe saw him as "not only the greatest but also the only artist to fully deserve the name, a universal artist in Goethe's meaning of the term."

Marées, like Goethe, saw form as not something imposed on the work of art from without but as the living made visible.

This was the fundamental principle of art as he saw it and Konrad Fiedler, his friend, went on to programmatically formulate it.

Never was he absolutely concerned with form first and foremost, as critics have claimed. His absolute desire for form was aimed at making visible inherent phenomena in the closest understanding with nature.

Nowhere is this desire more apparent than in his drawings, which provide the readiest access to his work and the most reliable way of taking a fresh look at it.

They allow us to take a more level-headed look at his work and what he sought to accomplish than was taken either by Meier-Graefe and Hausenstein in their day or by opponents who were mainly critical of his paintings.

Marées was an equally inspired and untiring draftsman. Among his contemporaries only Menzel rivalled him for power of expression and ability.

At times he forced himself to draw with his left hand in order not to fall foul of his stupendous virtuosity. For every picture he painted he drew any number of studies he carelessly set aside when he no longer needed them.

We owe it to students and friends who preserved them for posterity that an abundance of fine Marées drawings are still in existence.

The Kaiserslautern exhibits, loaned from public and private collections, date from his late, Italian period. They are mainly studies and sketches for a mere four of his paintings.

They are the Ages of Life, the Three Horsemen, the Golden Age and the Hesperideans.

They depict nudes, singly and in

Continued on page 12

A section of Hans von Marées' Idylle I (1873).

(Photos: Catalogue)

A collection of quality on loan from Poland

Coburg has an exhibition of Old Masters from Polish collections on loan until the end of April.

The collection of 114 drawings was first shown in Brunswick.

It is not a spectacular, lavish nor extravagant exhibition but the quality is first-rate.

Compared with the other major exhibition of Old Masters in southern Germany, the Greco to Goya exhibition in Munich, Coburg is smaller but the names are just as illustrious.

Drawings are, by their very nature, more modest, more intimate and private. But quality gives them an aura of nobility.

The drawings are buried treasure in several senses of the term. Drawings are, for one, almost invariably buried away in museums' collections of engravings.

They have been borrowed from the library of the Ossolinski National Institute in Wroclaw, the National Museum in Warsaw and Gdansk, the University and National Library in Warsaw, the State Archives in Cracow and museums in Poznan and Szczecin.

The normal inaccessibility of East bloc collections is one reason why, for example exhibitions from Soviet museums are so popular.

This exhibition was arranged long before martial law was imposed in Poland, and the contacts needed will now be more difficult to make, both in practice and in terms of arts policy motivation.

During the Second World War many private collections in Poland were destroyed, many more, in relation to the country's size, than elsewhere, as the catalogue points out in detail.

Girls head, a drawing in red-brown chalk by Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1946). On loan from the Warsaw National Museum. (Photo: Catalogue)

Chronologically the drawings extend from Holbein the Elder and the late Gothic period to German historic painters of the 19th century such as Kaulbach.

The Holbein drawing is a draft for the altar of Augsburg Cathedral. Then comes the Renaissance in the shape of Albrecht Dürer, Hans von Kulmbach, Wolf Huber and Francois Clouet.

There are also exhibits from the Dutch school, especially Rembrandt, and from the baroque era in many European countries. But the stars of the Italian Renaissance, Leonardo, Raphael and Michelangelo, are not represented.

The reason for this is simple. Western European monarchs snapped them up so fast that few works by Leonardo & Co. found their way to Eastern Europe.

Even Catherine the Great, who was not only Empress of Russia but also an adept art collector, failed to hold her own against competition from the West for the works of the Italian Renaissance.

But the Italian second string are on show. Lorenzi di Credi, of the Florentine school, has a boy Christ giving his blessing.

Then there is the 18th century Venetian school, represented by two or three drawings each by Canaletto, the Tiepolos and Guardi that give an air of Venetian charm to a collection that otherwise strikes a serious note.

The Dürer drawing is a 1510 chalk Head of a Bearded Man from the library of the Ossolinski National Institute in Wroclaw, which houses the rich collection of drawings made by Prince Henryk Lubomirksi, a number of which can be seen in Coburg.

A particular memorable and outstanding drawing is an architectural fantasy by Piranesi, one of the finest of his many. Now owned by the Warsaw University Library, it used to form part of the collection of Count Stanislaus Potocki.

Visitors are advised to take a careful look at the exhibits. Drawings by great artists always have an intimate air and can give as much pleasure as major works of art.

The urgent personal message of a drawing is something the reviewer has seldom felt so keenly as here amid a collection of drawings from four centuries.

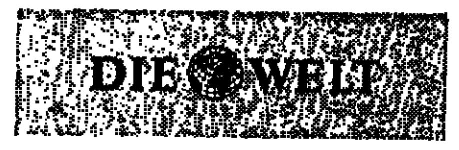
They may not be uniform in quality but quality is something to which they all can lay claim.

Walter Fenn

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 22 March 1982)

■ THE ARTS

Composer Carl Orff dies at 86: his deeds defied emulation



The wheel of destiny which he had so forcefully set spinning with the *O-Fortuna!* opening chorus of his *Carmina Burana* has come to a standstill. Composer Carl Orff has died in Munich at 86.

He had pretty much disappeared from public view when he suffered a mild stroke shortly before turning 85 and was no longer able to declaim his *Bernauerin*, his *Astutuli*, himself. Orff was always Orff's best interpreter.

But even before the stroke he had already put an end to his work as a composer. His last work, premiered in Salzburg, austria, in 1973 was *De temporum fine comoedia*.

He wanted to devote his last years to taking stock in the form of an 8-volume documentary on his life and work which was to have been completed by his 90th birthday in 1985.

This was intended as a sort of justification that he could present to the Good Lord, so to speak, saying: "Look at what I have done with my life."

Of course, there is no saying whether the Good Lord of the Bavarians, who watched over such works as *Der Mond* and *Die Kluge*, will deign to receive Carl Orff. He might refer him to his Greek opposite number, Zeus, who was the patron of such works as *Antigone*, *Oedipus, der Tyrann* and *Prometheus*.

Bavarian fairy tale and Greek myth were the two opposite poles on which Orff's theatrical work rested.

Orff was a man of the theatre. His music developed from scenic visions; and when he attended rehearsals his music reverted to scenic ideas with which he "helped" directors and stage designers realise his concepts.

Even so, even the most honest of theatre experts admit that it must have been a pleasure to work with Orff because he was one of their ilk, full of theatrical temperament; and even as a very old man he derived a childish joy from getting a play going.

The other pillar of his work was the word. The word determines the rhythm; but the way in which Orff repeated words and hammered out the syllables turned them into rhythm and hence music.

"He made the language of language talk," says his authorised biographer Andreas Liess. "Music and movement — one elemental force, one unending beginning."

This also applies to the "comedy on the end of time". While in Beckett's "End Game" the dustbin covers close with a clang, in Orff's opposite number the Anchorites sit on their stones and plan for the time after the end — an end that is in itself a beginning in music and movement.

At one time, these elements marked the beginning for Orff as well. In 1924, he teamed up with the gymnast Dorothee Günther and founded the now legendary Günther School for Gymnastics, Music and Dance.

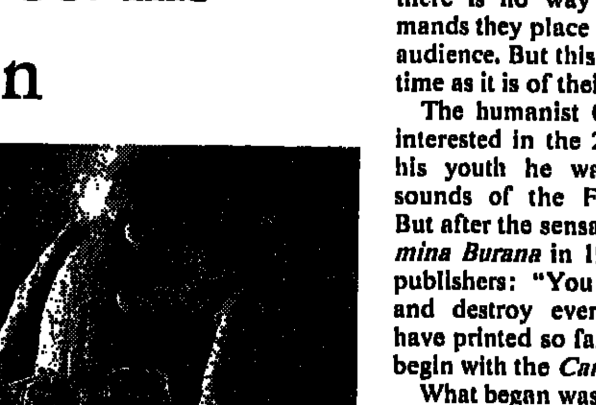
There was, of course, a great deal of expressionistic spirit in it all: music and dance were integral parts of everybody, and a person only had to be persuaded to let them out, beating drums and dancing.

Orff later modified this concept without ever really abandoning it: music and dance come naturally to a child; and it is not until later that this natural way of expression becomes overlaid.

What Orff wanted was to develop this natural drive. Based on the experience gathered with the Günther School, he developed his educational system that is still being used for musical education in such widely different cultural spheres as that of Greece and that of Japan.

So there you saw them beating drums, triangles and xylophones, playing the recorder, singing and stamping their feet under the direction of the old Bavarian. He thus now has innumerable musical grandchildren and great-grandchildren to lament his passing.

But even this part of Orff's life work was never uncontroversial. Maurizio Kagel ridiculed it, saying it bred acoustic NCOs.



'He made the language of language talk' . . . Carl Orff. (Photo: Archiv)

And as for his theatrical works, critics said that he had reduced literature to stamping feet of metres. Orff himself had outgrown the era of uncontested authority. His grand Greek works are virtually no longer being performed — not even in Stuttgart and Munich, the two opera houses where he was once at home.

Orff's humanistic theatre in which even Prometheus sang in Aeschylus's Greek came under fire from two sides: the new popularity of the pleasure of singing opera and the poster-like theatre considered timely today. Orff's works were at odds with both. What makes them untimely is the fact that there is no way of reducing the demands they place on themselves and the audience. But this is as indicative of our time as it is of their creator.

The humanist Orff was never really interested in the 20th century. True, in his youth he was fascinated by the sounds of the French impressionists. But after the sensational success of *Carmina Burana* in 1937, he instructed his publishers: "You can go ahead and destroy everything of mine you have printed so far. My collected works begin with the *Carmina Burana*."

What began was also the era of building bridges to the past.

The Benediktbeuren pieces were followed by *Catulli Carmina* and *Trionfo di Afrodite*, forming a grandiose trilogy with *Carmina Burana* and supporting medieval elements with elements taken from Roman antiquity.

With his Easter and Christmas mystery plays, Orff drilled deep into Christian bedrock. Bavarian peasant theatre blends with fairytales and the two together form a blend with ribald Shakespearean scenes.

The one unifying element in the works is Orff's language of sound. He rarely came up with melodies; and his unmistakable hallmark is the metric ostinato, the implacable rhythm of Orff's music.

All this is unique. This has prevented Orff's music from being emulated. As a result, there is nobody who could carry on this artistic legacy. What remains is world theatre that — in its time — nobody could fail to hear and that once might be heard again.

Reinhard Beuth

(Die Welt, 31 March 1982)

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groups, and they are normal and by no means mythical or mythified figures of classical perfection, gesture and bearing.

They convey a monumental impression even from the sketchpad, but they also clearly testify to the natural living being of the models and to the natural relationship of the artist to nature and reality.

His is a productive outlook which-ever way you look at it, and there is no mistaking how he sees people and things.

Marées wrote to Fiedler from Naples that he was concerned with observing mankind in its true and natural state. This he was able to write, as he drew, entirely without pathos.

We are shown not gods or heroes but real people: men, women and young folk, people standing, walking and crouching.

We are shown them in natural situations, such as affection, courtship, competition, encounter and departure, or alone and quietly conscious of themselves.

They are timelessly valid individuals in the classical sense, but that has nothing to do with classicism or with imitation of the Ancient World.

Marées professed an aesthetic realism that he set against the aesthetics of idealism. It combined constructive abstraction and poetry, improvisation and ease of invention, clarity of composition and strictness.

His work combined, in the final analysis, his Nordic legacy and his Mediterranean experience. What the "last German Roman" said of the work of art is certainly true of his drawings:

"A work of art will in time gain in beauty in the eye of the beholder, whose pleasure with it will eventually be heightened to true love."

Eo Plunien

(Die Welt, 29 March 1982)

Thoughts about the video disc dominate book trade talks

More than 600 book sellers and publishers visited the Book Retailers Conference of the German Book Trade Association this year.

This was an increase of 50 per cent on last year.

The association broke with tradition this year on two counts: the venue has been changed from Darmstadt to Mainz, the birthplace of Gutenberg.

And instead of holding it at the beginning of summer it was brought back to spring, late in March.

The past year has not been good for the industry mainly because private demand is down and library budgets are not increasing.

But the organisers made a point of not letting economic matters dominate the entire conference.

The programme ranged from the general meeting of the German Book Trade Association at which DTV (one of Germany's major paperback publishing houses) chief executive Heinz Friedrich was awarded the Pertes Medal (named after the founder of the German retail book trade) for his meritorious service to the trade — to mark his 60th birthday — to the award of the Alfred Kerr Prize for literary criticism to the Austrian literary magazines *manuskripte* and *protokolle*.

There were also specialised workshops and a public discussion on Learning without Reading.

Roland Ulmer (Stuttgart) was elected the new chairman of the Publishers' Committee and Klaus Vorpahl (Frankfurt) replaced Karl-Wilhelm Jordan as chairman of the book retailers.

The most topical issue in the workshops was the subject "Video disc and Book Trade".

The demonstration of videodiscs and their applications by representatives of the firms Telemedia (Bertelsmann), Philips-Dornier and Gruner + Jahr was followed up by long discussions.

The debate made it obvious that the new medium has been accepted by the trade as a labour and cost-saving device



— especially in preparing bibliographies and orders.

The same will apply in the near future to its use as an alternative to printed literature such as encyclopaedias and catalogues of available books.

A work group of small publishers was been formed in 1980. It now has more than 100 companies. The discussion in Mainz focussed on further possibilities of cost-saving cooperation and more effective collaboration with the retail trade.

This year also saw the establishment of a workshop of smallish retailers to promote the interests of small-town bookshops.

Heidi Dürr

(Handelsblatt, 30 March 1982)

■ EDUCATION

Blame for breakdown put on political infighting, not cash shortage

Education has been run under a joint arrangement between the *Länder* and Bonn since 1973. But it now looks as if this will not continue. The joint Federal-State commission for educational planning has been trying for three years to get the arrangement extended until 1990. But financial disagreements have been the ostensible stumbling block: in 1982 only DM85bn is available instead of DM90bn.

The blame for the imminent failure of the joint education scheme must lie with the *Länder*.

To say that lack of cash is the culprit is just not correct.

Disagreements with finance ministers may well have sealed the fate of the overall plan.

But the *Länder* have not been willing to stop party political in-fighting. The squabbling means that ultimate failure is just a matter of time.

With sound estimates for the budget and reliable calculations in general remaining in illusion, the disputes on the financing of educational plans remain pure theory.

Cost calculations assume a politically symbolic character. Not only does each *Land* possess differing basic financial resources, but high margins of error make financial projections a risky business.

Yet educational and financial planners insist on turning their figures into a matter of principle. Of course, financial problems serve as an extremely useful alibi.

It's not easy to explain to the public why a venture, in which ministries, commissions and experts have been involved for so long, is suddenly dropped.

A look at the relationship between expenditure and returns would seem in order.

After all, this overall educational plan could gave already been adopted two years ago, at financial conditions unimaginable today.

However, despite the stereotyped compromise solutions already achieved, the urge to quarrel about central issues, such as the comprehensive school system, teacher training, and the tenth year at school, have apparently been more important.

In this respect, Bavaria revealed itself to be the most obstinate partner. It had also been constantly active in the conference of education ministers, endeavouring to establish the exact conditions of comparability between comprehensive and other school systems.

Rarely has party politics cost the state so much money. The remnants of joint planning activities now loom like some bombastic ruin.

The possible consequences should be enough to offset any apparent relief felt by certain ministers of education, no longer obliged to seek unity.

With their depleting resources, many *Länder* may find the prospect of dealing with their own troubles an attractive one. They no longer need pay heed to national interests or commitments.

Indeed, recent disputes have disintegrated into a tug-of-war on future jobs for teachers, this topic always having been a prickly political issue.

The opting out of joint planning by the Federal Government means that the whole field of educational policy, excluding higher education, is gradually disappearing from the national stage.

However, educational policy and educational planning, the basic issues of school structure, and the links between the system of education and employment still remain topics of national significance.

This backing down from the unpleasant pressures of joint planning in future represents a shunning of national responsibilities.

This move represents a rejection of a style, which has shaped educational policy over the last decade.

Our grave misunderstanding of federalism thus turns into a paradox.

The actual moulding of educational activities based on regional tradition, a field in which federalism was expected to come into fruition, is now subject to centralist perfectionism.

The fixing of general guidelines for future development, on the other hand, a task which was intended at a national level, is taken over by the *Länder*.

Complaints abound concerning the lack of allegiance and commitment to the state among young people.

Yet here is a situation in which those responsible opt out of their responsibilities, gradually eliminating any national cohesion.

The representatives of the state no longer seem concerned about the joint efforts in dealing with difficulties facing the growing number of young persons, overcoming the threat of unemployment among teachers, or securing investment for education.

Do politicians still know what state they are referring to when they demand greater commitment by the youth of today? Is such as demand credible if this very state itself is lacking in commitment?

Malte Buschbeck

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 March 1982)

Inequalities persist

More working-class children go on to higher education than before, but the numbers are still not high enough, says Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm.

He reveals in an official document that the SPD/FDP coalition has not reached its aim of guaranteeing lower-class children equal educational opportunities.

The fact that most young people without occupational qualifications are of working-class origin is the most serious aspect.

This should stir the consciences of politicians, teachers, industry and parents alike.

Engholm's fears that any reduction in *Bafög*, the official government grant, for school children would worsen the chances of working-class children would seem justified.

However, receiving a grant is not enough to guarantee higher education.

Other factors come into it. As underlined by Engholm, it all starts with the parental environment.

Behavioural requirements and performance criteria at school often make it more difficult for lower-class children to come to terms with institutes of higher education than in the case of other children.

Engholm's suggested easing up of the performance criteria is problematic.

A tenth year of education for all secondary modern school children and the facilitation of the transition from such schools to advanced level courses could alleviate the situation.

The minister's basically justified cause contains, of course, an ideological component.

Pressures to do well, which precede higher education, are almost inhuman.

The question still remains whether an academic form of education makes people happier.

Clearly, not those whose talents lean towards the more practical career. They, therefore should be nudged in that direction.

Werner Neumann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 24 March 1982)

Stagger university year and cut overcrowding, urges MP

Universities should cut overcrowding by dividing the academic year into three terms instead of the present two, says a Bonn MP.

Hans Wallow (SPD) suggests in a letter to Chancellor Schmidt that students should be obliged to enrol for two of the three 14-week semesters. This would spread the load universities have to carry.

At present, campus buildings are in many cases empty for nearly half a year because of long holidays.

The trimester proposal is not new. Professor Paul Mikat, legal adviser to the CDU/CSU in the Bundestag and one-time North Rhine-Westphalia education minister, put a similar idea forward in 1965. But it was not taken seriously.

Advocates of the change say that in a university with, for example, 12,000 students spreading their 28 weeks of study over 42 weeks, no more than 8,000 would use lecture halls and technical facilities at any one time.

Ideally, this university could increase its capacity by 50 per cent to 18,000.

This would mean big savings in building investment. There would be an increase in lecturers who would work during only two semesters.

Herr Wallow told Chancellor Schmidt that in the past the trimester idea had been rejected even before the details had been looked at.

Vast sums of money are channelled into West Germany's 229 universities and colleges, with their 110,000 scientists and about one million students.

Last year, there were on average only 131 lecture days at universities.

With the Government in Bonn planning to save wherever it can, this has become something of an issue.

Strong opposition by the professors is expected to Herr Wallow's proposal.

He proposes that the trimester system comprise lecture periods lasting 14 weeks, shorter holidays and six week summer holidays.

Students would be obliged to enrol for two out of three terms, thus eliminating both the present overcrowding in lecture halls and the gaping void during holiday periods.

Wallow, parliamentary representative of his party in the committee of education and science, told the Chancellor: "No country can afford the luxury of a fivemonth period free of lectures".

Mikat is still convinced today that there is far too much unused capacity, and that initial plans made for the extension of the higher educational sector did not take the drop in birth-rates into account.

Reference is made to the results of a survey carried out by the Auditor-General in North-Rhine-Westphalia, where DM50bn worth of language laboratories, video facilities, micro-wave cookers and other expensive material was found lying idle.

US scientists are quoted, during visits to Europe, as being surprised to discover that there was no access to university laboratories on weekends.

An investigation in Lower Saxony, for example revealed excessive capacity in lecture halls and administration, whereas there was not enough space for the individual student at his workplace.

Eberhard Nitschke

(Die Welt, 29 March 1982)

■ MEDICINE

German method best against German measles — doctor

The American system of inoculating against German measles should not be introduced to the Federal Republic, says a Tübingen doctor.

Girls in Germany are inoculated just before puberty, but the Americans give a combined German measles and measles vaccination.

Professor Klaus Dietz said computer projections showed that a change would result in more damaged babies over the next 80 to 100 years.

German measles is not serious for children, but if women are affected during pregnancy, the foetus can be severely damaged, resulting in physically or mentally handicapped children.

The German practice, Professor Dietz told a Press conference in Berlin is to offer girls inoculation before puberty. About 70 per cent take advantage of the programme.

Under the American system, the double dose would have to be given to small children, because the ordinary measles is not dangerous to older people.

Despite this, only 35 per cent of German children get the measles inoculation in early childhood.

He said the double dose was not only medically not advisable, but also it would not even be cheaper.

The Press conference was at the end of the 29th Berlin-Dahlem Workshop.

Another delegate, Professor Perez Yekutiel, an Israeli epidemiologist, demonstrated the difference between old and new methods of combating diseases by pointing to the malaria elimination campaign of which he was in charge as a staff member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) until 1967.

Then experts believed that it was enough to spray the walls of houses and huts in the malaria zones of the tropics with DDT to eliminate the carrier of the *disease: the anopheles mosquito.*

This view was based on the observation that as soon as the mosquito stings and drinks its fill of blood it flies to the nearest wall to rest.

The campaign was 50 per cent successful. Professor Yekutiel gave several reasons for the failure of the other 50 per cent: many tropical homes have no walls that can be sprayed. They consist only of poles covered with some sort of protection against the rain. The sides are frequently open.

Moreover, nobody then knew that some malarial mosquitos can sense DDT with their feet. They take off instantly and escape the lethal dose.

Also, people living in the tropics frequently don't sleep at home — especially during the hunting and harvest seasons.

Computer simulation now makes it possible to take these random factors and their effects on success and failure of a campaign into account.

For instance: it is now possible to figure out exactly what will happen if 80 per cent of a village population are regularly inoculated, Professor Dietz said.

Professor Dietz has been teaching biometry at Tübingen University since 1976 and had previously spent seven years as a mathematician at WHO.

It had been assumed that every villager would at some stage become inoculated.

But mathematics has shown that this is wrong. There will always be a few who will escape for a variety of reasons.

Some will be too sick, old or handicapped to get to an inoculation centre. Others will just simply be opposed to preventive medicine.

It always take two to bring about an infection: the attacker and the victim, in other words the germ and the body.

Although this might sound like a truism the fact is that too little attention has been paid to the context between the attacker and the prey in combating communicable diseases in man, animal and plant.

The Berlin-Dahlem Workshop has helped to remedy this.

The Dahlem conferences have for years brought together scientists of all disciplines and from all parts of the world to enable them to exchange views and experiences on an inter-disciplinary basis.

The 29th Workshop, attended by close to 50 experts; has attempted to build a bridge between traditional and new views on the "colonisation biology of the causers of communicable diseases".

In the past, the attention of experts (in this case epidemiologists) was essentially riveted on the distribution of communicable diseases and epidemics without regard for the dynamic interplay between this and the causing factors.

Another approach to the problem comes from zoology: predatory animals can only become sated and multiply if there is sufficient prey.

As a result, there is always an optimal ratio between the populations of predatory animals and their victims. In other words: if the victim population diminishes, famine ensues among the predators and their population also diminishes.

More and more experts now say that similar dependences and co-existences apply to relations between parasites, bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa and worms on the one side and their victims (people, animals and plants) on the other.

The scientists in Berlin hope that the "predator-prey" theory can provide a new direction in the fight against infectious diseases.

There were four different approaches in bridging traditional epidemiology and the new theory:

One team examined the changes in the wake of communicable diseases regarding the size of human and animal populations, i.e. the dynamism of the processes.

The second group concentrated on the different ways, depending on the causing factor, in which an infection spreads among the human and animal populations.

They looked into the speed and frequency with which a certain micro spreads within a population through contagion from person to person or animal to animal.

The third group tried to convert the insights gained into models for the combating and control of the causing factors and the resulting infections.

The fourth team delved into the extent to which the causer of the disease and the host body adapt to each other and perhaps even undergo a common interdependent evolution.

It is self-evident that these far-reaching and multi-layered aspects can be dealt with successfully only on a multi-disciplinary basis.

Delegates included epidemiologists, parasitologists, hygiene experts, ento-

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Medical guide on death

Once a patient's brain is dead, the plug should be pulled out on the life-support system, the German Medical Association has ruled.

It has issued a new list of guidelines which say that two doctors must agree that the brain is clinically dead.

The ruling gives doctors important help in making decisions on life-support, says Karsten Vilmar, chairman of the Medical Association.

He told *Westdeutsche Allgemeine* that the guidelines also provide more safety for the patient.

"We can now rid him of the fear that he might not be given artificial respiration for as long as necessary," he said.

Vilmar confirmed that the guidelines will prove helpful in cases of organ donors. But he stressed that they were not drafted for this.

Instead, this decision, which falls into the "ethical-moral border regions", was made with a view to modern intensive care medicine.

Vilmar said that constantly prolonging life when there was no prospect of improvement was cruel and inhuman — especially for the next-of-kin who might cling to false hopes for weeks.

Vilmar: "Once brain death has occurred, the personality ceases to exist."

As in all areas of life, there is no way of excluding the possibility of abuse. "Even doctors are not immune."

But the best possible safeguards have been provided. Not only do the guidelines stipulate that brain death must be diagnosed by two independent doctors; they also stipulate that these doctors may not be part of a team intending to remove organs.

An additional safeguard lies in the fact that transplants are rarely made in the same hospital in which people with brain damage are treated. As a result the doctors concerned could only theoretically be deemed to have something to do with organ transplants in the widest sense.

Although the guidelines are not legally binding, they are bound to be respected by both doctors and the judiciary, Vilmar said.

"No law can settle the issue of time of death. This is something between the doctor and his individual conscience."

He said he could not imagine that doctors would not abide by the guidelines, "and if they did not they would have to come up with a very good reason."

He said it was unlikely that cases like that of the American Karen Ann Quinlan, kept alive for years by artificial respiration, could happen in Germany. "Even such a case would in future have to be judged by the criteria given in the new guidelines."

Gudrun Kratz-Norbisrath

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 26 March 1982)

■ MODERN LIVING

Correspondence courses help prisoners prepare for careers on the outside

Free correspondence courses for people serving prison sentences have been arranged for the past 10 years by a liaison office in Stuttgart.

Aktion Bildungsinformation, a non-profit organisation, has received about 1,200 inquiries over the years, and 300 have led to a course being booked.

Thirty prison inmates are learning behind bars and hope their qualifications will get them a job when they are released.

"I am 21 and serving a long sentence for a juvenile offence," one letter to the Stuttgart office reads.

"Before I was sentenced I served an apprenticeship as a freight forwarder, then spent a year and a half qualifying for commercial college.

"Since I shall be inside for some time I would very much like to put it to good use and gain further commercial qualifications by correspondence course.

"I assume that as an ex-convict I will only get a job on the strength of qualifications, especially with unemployment increasing in the commercial sector."

"I am firmly resolved," another writer put it, "to train as a management student while serving my term in prison. This is of enormous importance for my future because ex-convicts can only get jobs if they have suitable qualifications."

"I am so overjoyed at your offer of a course," wrote a third correspondent, "that I cannot find words to express my delight. I do assure you I am fully aware of the opportunity I am being given."

Letters like these are received regularly in Stuttgart. Convicts write in convinced that if only they can take a correspondence course it will make all the difference on release.

Convicts and correspondence course students have much in common. They are both isolated and stand to benefit from a bridge built between them.

The Stuttgart liaison bureau launched a campaign in conjunction with correspondence colleges all over Germany in 1972 to arrange facilities to help convicts get back on their feet when they were released.

It set up a special department to handle communications between convicts and prison authorities on the one hand and correspondence colleges and educational authorities on the other.

About 1,200 enquiries have been received, leading to 300 offers of complimentary correspondence courses, some donated by the colleges, others by companies and organisations.

Complimentary courses are provided subject to conditions, the first being that the convict must first apply. It is up to him to show interest and make the initial application.

ABI in Stuttgart is the only agency in the Federal Republic of Germany to arrange courses of this kind.

It then asks the applicant to submit his paperwork: a CV, exam certificates and a certificate from a prison psychologist that he is likely to last the distance.

Applicants must also state a convincing case why they cannot afford to pay for the course out of their own pockets and there is no-one in the family who could help them to do so.

The decision whether the prisoner is allowed to take the course or not is reached by the prison governor.

Most applicants are keen to take school-leaving certificates, in other words, educational qualifications of a general kind, not specific career qualifications.

For a bank robber, a swindler, a drug peddler or someone serving a life sentence to take university exams may seem a luxury, but experts say study for a specific target is a way of preventing personality disintegration.

University entrance qualification, the Abitur or baccalaureate, has an aura of bourgeois respectability that makes it seem particularly desirable to many people in prison.

It is something on which they can concentrate all their intellectual energy. Languages are also popular.

But many inquiries relate to job qualifications convicts cannot gain in prison, where work is usually manual.

"For convicts serving long sentences," says the education officer at Mannheim prison, "correspondence courses are practically the only way of improving career qualifications until they are granted parole."

During the course the convict cannot just ring up his local instructor for advice. Instead, this service is provided by the prison education officer and the correspondence college.

The Stuttgart bureau also checks how he is getting on. Courses can take years and convicts can be given time off prison work on, say, two afternoons a week.

The success rate, nearly 70 per cent, is surprisingly high, above average.This is attributed to strict selection procedures, as also to convicts, once they have set their sights on passing, concentrating exclusively on their goal.

Female convicts, incidentally, virtually never apply.

Finance is the problem. Baden-Württemberg, of which Stuttgart is the capital, is the only *Land* to provide an annual grant towards operations.

Company donations have virtually stopped. Correspondence colleges say they cannot permanently afford to subsidise courses. They hoped the authorities would finance the scheme once it had caught on.

A three-and-a-half-year Abitur course for someone who left school at 15 costs at least DM5,500.

Individual grants from the education authorities or the labour exchange are ruled out because grants toward correspondence courses are only made when local follow-up courses are attended, which someone behind bars can hardly do. Alternatively, correspondence course students must prove they have spent at least three months studying full-time for the course.

In the entire country there is a single person, a lady in her 60s, who donates a monthly sum, DM150, to sponsor a correspondence course for convicts.

That, says the head of the Stuttgart liaison office, is just a drop in the ocean. Thirty students are currently learning behind bars in this way. If demand were the yardstick, their number could easily run into treble figures.

Isolde Neidlein

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 30 March 1982)

One wife is enough for tax relief, court decides

Bigamy is a criminal offence in Germany. The penalty is up to three years in prison or a fine. The criminal code says so in a single sentence of less then 30 words.

Monogany is legally and ethically binding. One wife is enough. Not so in other, arguably luckier parts of the world, such as the Islamic countries.

There, if you can afford it and feel so inclined, you can marry as many women as you want withoun incurring the rigour of the law.

German men may feel envious. It will depend on their moral outlook, physical fitness and age. But German taxpayers cannot be expected to foot the bill.

It would be like charging a Muslim spirit duties on camel milk to suubsidise the price of whisky in Germany. Or so a financial tribunal in Cologne has ruled.

The court was called on the give a ruling on whether a Moroccan worker living in Germany could claim double household allowances for the homes of his two wives.

He had lived in Germany since 1963 and been married to his first wife since 1949. He married again in 1979, a woman from another town in Morocco, and his second wife joined him in Germany in 1980.

The court ruled that since 1979 he had no longer been entitled to claim that his first wife's home was his own. The second home, in Germany, was the only one that was tax-deductible from then on.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do, and the same goes for Cologne. The court got it absolutely right.

Hans Mundorf

(Handelsblatt, 24 March 1982)

German measles

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mologists, genetics experts, historians and geographers.

The geographers were primarily needed to provide information on the incidence and regional course of epidemics in the history of mankind.

Mathematicians also played an important role in the workshop. By providing mathematical models for the occurrence and development of infections within population groups and by computer simulations that took into account any number of fringe conditions, they came up with indispensable instruments for entirely new strategies with which to control and combat infection.

These infections threaten both industrial and developing countries. They include influenza, rabies, polio, German measles, malaria and venereal diseases.

Dieter Dietrich

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 March 1982)

Minister looks at plight of battered housewives

West Berlin's refuge for battered wives, the first in Germany, was financed as a pilot project by the Bonn Family Affairs Ministry for four years, from 1976 to 1979.

The Ministry invested DM2m in the experiment and its findings have just been published in a report presented to the Press in Bonn by Antje Huber, the Minister.

Frau Huber said the day she had spent talking with women at the Berlin refuge had been one of the most upsetting days in her life.

Violence in the family was a more serious problem than was generally assumed. Women at all levels of society were often maltreated for years.

Yet the public response to their plight was frequently one of misunderstanding, the report said.

Wives were beaten so severely as to need hospital treatment. They were raped. They were taken to the end of their tether by their husbands or men friends. They were threatened with murder and isolated from friends and neighbours.

Most had lived a life of martyrdom for years before taking the plunge and moving to the refuge.

During the four-year test period over 2,500 women and a roughly equal number of children stayed there. Most were 18- to 25-year-olds.

Fourteen per cent of the women took the men who had tortured and beaten them to court. Over 17 per cent of the women were foreign nationals.

One of the conclusions reached in the report is that advice bureaus and counselling services for women ought to be improved.



Refuges for battered wives ought to be joined by shared apartments for women with children. Court proceedings ought to take marital rape into consideration.

Frau Huber said the project was the initial step in a catalogue of activities to help battered wives. Their plight was now common knowledge and people were aware that a problem existed.

There are now about 60 refuges in cities and towns all over Germany, and since last December the Bonn Ministry has subsidised a refuge project in a rural area.

dpa

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